Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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Economic Matters Committee

To: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

SUPPORT HB 264 - Business Occupational and Professional Licenses – Suspension and Revocation 3 for Workplace Fraud

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent 10,000+ Plumbers, Steamfitter, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 264.**

Workplace fraud is one of the most significant issues facing the construction industry in Maryland. It can manifest as wage theft, misclassification, or tax violations. In many instances, the contractor will hire a labor broker to find the workforce rather than directly hiring the workers, trying to put a layer between themselves and the crime they are about to commit. When caught, back pay and fines will only go so far as to keep them from becoming repeat offenders. Suspension and Revocation of a business license, keeping them from bidding for more work, would be a real punishment to encourage them not to commit wage fraud again. When it comes to wage fraud, the more penalties imposed on a business that violates the law, the less likely they are to do it again.

For the reasons previously mentioned, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 264**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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