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February 21, 2024

Economic Matters Committee
C.T Wilson, Chair
Brian M Crosby, Vice Chair
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Support HB 1017- Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act of 2025)

Dear Honorable Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

Dear Mr. Crosby,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a licensed glazing contractor in Maryland, I am writing to express my strong support for the Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act of 2025 (HB 1017). As a business owner dedicated to the growth of our state's economy, I believe that investing in a skilled workforce is essential for Maryland's continued prosperity and development.

The glazing industry, like many others, relies on a well-trained workforce to meet the demands of modern construction projects. HB 1017 presents an important opportunity to strengthen our workforce by requiring the use of registered apprenticeship programs on public works projects. This legislation will not only help ensure that we have a highly skilled workforce but will also promote a more inclusive and diverse labor market, which is crucial to the long-term success of Maryland's economy.

Registered apprenticeship programs play a vital role in training workers, particularly in industries like glazing, where expertise in handling glass, working at heights, and maintaining safety standards is essential. These programs provide apprentices with both classroom education and hands-on experience, ensuring they are fully prepared to handle the technical demands of the job. Proper training in these areas not only guarantees high-quality work but also significantly reduces the risk of accidents and injuries, safeguarding both workers and the public.

Safety is of utmost importance in the glazing industry, as workers are frequently exposed to hazardous materials and must work on elevated surfaces. Apprenticeship programs ensure that workers are taught



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the proper safety protocols, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to perform their jobs safely. This focus on safety directly contributes to reduced workplace incidents, ensuring that public works projects are completed efficiently and without unnecessary delays or added costs.

In 2020, Maryland allocated \$572 million to workforce development programs, signaling the state's dedication to preparing its workforce for the future. Supporting registered apprenticeship programs ensures that workers are well-trained, benefiting both the workers themselves and the broader Maryland economy.

Apprenticeships provide a pathway for workers to earn while they learn, which is especially important in fields like glazing, where on-the-job training is crucial. This model allows workers to gain valuable experience while minimizing the financial burden typically associated with traditional education. Apprenticeships also support workforce diversity, offering opportunities to women, minorities, and individuals from underserved communities, and promoting economic mobility across Maryland.

Moreover, Maryland's registered apprenticeship programs invest over \$10 million annually in workforce development, training workers in the building and construction trades. This investment plays a critical role in ensuring that Maryland's construction projects are completed on time, within budget, and to the highest standards of quality.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1017, as it will not only improve the quality of public works projects but also provide valuable training opportunities for the next generation of skilled workers in the glazing industry. By utilizing apprenticeship programs, we can build a stronger, safer, and more efficient workforce that will serve Maryland for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew E. Canter, Jr.

Andrew E. Canter, Jr.
President