



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

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To: Senator Pam Beidle, Chair; Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee

From: Christopher Anderson, Business Agent, Plumbers and Steamfitter Local 486

Support SB 688 - Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)

On behalf of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 688, the "Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act." This important legislation will significantly enhance the workforce development opportunities for apprentices in our state while ensuring that public works projects provide the necessary training and experience to build a skilled and sustainable labor force for the future.

As a union representing skilled tradespeople, we believe that the inclusion of apprenticeship requirements in public works contracts is crucial to maintaining the high standards of craftsmanship and safety that our communities expect. SB 688 will ensure that a sufficient number of apprentices and journey workers are employed on public projects, directly contributing to the success and quality of these projects.

Moreover, by broadening the scope of projects subject to apprenticeship utilization and eliminating the option for contractors to make payments in lieu of employing apprentices, this bill ensures that our young workers gain the hands-on experience necessary to advance in their trades. It will also provide better opportunities for all Maryland residents, regardless of background, to join apprenticeship programs and contribute to the growth of our state's economy.

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 strongly believes that SB 688 is a vital step toward strengthening Maryland's workforce and ensuring the long-term success of the construction industry. We urge you to support this critical legislation and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Anderson