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Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle,

I am writing today to express my full support for *Senate Bill 938 - Fraud Prevention and Worker Protections - Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement*.

This bill is a critical step forward in strengthening worker protections in Maryland. As we all know, Maryland is facing a wage theft crisis. A recent study has revealed that our state leads the nation in wage theft violations, with 12,639 cases documented over the past three years alone. This is an alarming statistic that demands our immediate attention and action. The average amount owed to each affected worker is \$2,221 in back wages—a figure that underscores the financial hardship many of our workers are enduring.

SB938 is not only necessary, but it is timely. This legislation creates a Worker Protection Unit within the Office of the Attorney General, a move that will provide critical resources for enforcing workers' rights and holding bad actors accountable. With the power to conduct investigations and determine compliance with workers' rights laws, the Attorney General's Office will be equipped to address the wage theft crisis head-on.

The establishment of the Worker Protection Unit is a much-needed tool to ensure that the Office of the Attorney General has the resources it needs to directly address complaints of wage theft, investigate violations, and penalize those who break the law. The need for robust enforcement and accountability has never been more urgent.

I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 938 - Fraud Prevention and Worker Protections - Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement* the highest consideration and I thank you and your committee for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April McClain Delaney", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress