



# BWI AIRPORT PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS AFL-CIO-CLC  
LOCAL 1742 – CHARTERED DECEMBER 7, 1967

Christian A. Rejonis  
**President**

Michael L. Miller Jr.  
**Vice President**

Sherreka R. Jackson  
**Secretary**

Christopher P. Ryder  
**Treasurer**

February 4, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to provide a favorable report in support of SB-373. My name is Christian Rejonis and have the privilege of being the union President for The BWI Airport Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 1742. Our union represents a highly trained and skilled group of individuals that play an intracule roll in the safety of the community around BWI airport, the employees who work at BWI airport and the more than 27 million passengers BWI Airport sees every year. We respond to calls in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County and Howard County. All these jurisdictions have binding arbitration.

Binding arbitration is a widely recognized practice that has been extremely helpful in ensuring fair collective bargaining with many career Fire Department's across the nation including in our great state. Along with many Fire Department's here in Maryland, the Maryland Transit Administration and the Labor union SLEOLA representing many of Maryland's state police agencies already have binding arbitration previsions. Also county employees in multiple jurisdictions across Maryland have binding arbitration. It is common for Fire Department and Police Departments to have binding reason for one major reason. That reason is simply because we are unable to strike. No firefighter wants to strike, we all have a passion for our job however having binding arbitration would certainly help level the playing fields when we're sitting at the negotiating table.

Putting a deadline on the collective bargaining process forces both the union and management to make negotiating a fair and equitable contract a priority. To often, the union and the state is left working late in the month of December trying to get negotiations concluded. Despite the unions attempts to get negotiations concluded, we were forced to hold a meeting on December 30<sup>th</sup> last year to attempt to get our contract wrapped up. Due to the last second rush over an already busy time of year, it is often difficult to ensure that everything is truly included that should be.

I respectfully urge the committee to grant a favorable report on SB-373.

Respectfully,  
Christian A. Rejonis