

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council - AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the Senate Finance Committee On
SB 3 Procurement - Public Work Contracts - Data Dashboard (Maryland Public Works and
Apprenticeship Transparency Act)

Support

February 3, 2025

Madam Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing to express our **support of Senate Bill 3**, which will bring much-needed transparency and accountability to public works projects across our state.

SB 3 establishes a public-facing data dashboard to provide clear, real-time insights into prevailing wage compliance, apprenticeship participation, and workforce demographics on public works projects. For too long, enforcement of prevailing wage laws has relied on limited oversight and reactive complaints. By requiring contractors and subcontractors to report weekly on wages, benefits, and employment data, this legislation ensures that workers are paid fairly, apprenticeship opportunities are upheld, and taxpayers receive the highest quality work for their investment.

Transparency benefits everyone. It prevents wage theft, ensures compliance with Maryland's labor laws, and promotes the use of skilled, well-trained workers. Making demographic and certification data available will help measure progress in expanding apprenticeship opportunities, particularly for underrepresented workers in the skilled trades.

We urge the Committee to pass Senate Bill 3 to protect workers, hold bad actors accountable, and ensure Maryland's public works projects set the standard for fair wages and workforce development. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24