



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 & 241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore-DC Building Trades  
on HB 957: State Procurement – Worker Residency Requirements  
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 957. My name is Ray Baker. I am the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

BDCBT supports HB 957, which would establish worker residency requirements for state public works projects. The requirements differ based on the size of the project. For example, projects with a contract value of \$5 million or more would require the following to be performed by state residents: 20 percent of journey worker hours, 51 percent of skilled worker hours, 70 percent of common laborer hours, and 60 percent of apprenticeship hours.

A number of other states have already adopted statutes requiring the use of resident labor. These include our next-door neighbors Delaware and the District of Columbia, as well as Illinois, California, New York, West Virginia, Colorado, and Massachusetts.

As the state of Maryland faces fiscal constraints and the fallout from the Trump Administration's efforts to shrink the size of the federal government's workforce and move jobs out of the DMV, we need to do more to provide jobs for Maryland residents. HB 957 helps do that.

The BDCBT and its affiliates stand ready to be of assistance through our state-of-the-art union apprenticeship programs. We spend millions of dollars annually on our apprenticeship training. We have dozens of facilities across the state, making it easy for us to recruit and train Maryland residents for apprenticeship positions. We also have thousands of union journey workers who are state residents. The key is having the jobs on which to place our journey workers and apprentices, which HB 957 would help address. HB 957 also complements Governor Moore's Executive Order regarding the state's use of project labor agreements, the goal of which is to create and sustain quality union construction jobs for state residents.

The BDCBT urges the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 957.

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