



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS
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TESTIMONY OF CHRIS ANDERSON
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PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 486

BEFORE THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
AND THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 188 / SENATE BILL 3 – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2026
FAVORABLE

Chairs Beidle and Valderrama and honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Chris Anderson, and I am a Business Agent for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, representing skilled union workers in Maryland's energy, industrial, and commercial construction sectors. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 188 / Senate Bill 3.

Maryland's Unemployment Insurance system has not kept pace with today's workforce. This legislation makes targeted updates that strengthen the system for working families while providing clarity and predictability for employers.

Local 486 represents workers in cyclical industries where employment fluctuates based on project schedules and market conditions. A modern Unemployment Insurance system is not a substitute for work—it is a stabilizer that helps retain skilled workers in Maryland between projects.

This bill modernizes benefit calculations by tying them to the State Average Weekly Wage, responsibly updates the taxable wage base, and strengthens the long-term solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

For these reasons, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 respectfully urges a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,

Chris Anderson
Business Agent
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486

