



TESTIMONY OF JASON ASHER
POLITICAL DIRECTOR
MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association (“MAPTA”), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

MAPTA represents over 10,500 highly skilled union pipe trades workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia through its affiliated locals, including UA Steamfitters Local 602; UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5; UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486; UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 10; UA Plumbers Local 28; UA Steamfitters Local 100; and UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 24 (Richmond area). MAPTA also includes UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, a national local representing approximately 16,000 sprinkler fitters nationwide, who perform critical fire-protection and life-safety work. Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 undermines Maryland’s prevailing wage law by excluding wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, which are among the most significant employers of skilled pipe trades labor in the State. These employers establish market-based wage standards for complex, safety-critical infrastructure work. Excluding this data does not improve accuracy—it artificially suppresses prevailing wage determinations.

The predictable consequence of this bill is downward pressure on prevailing wages on public works projects, undermining collectively bargained standards and disadvantaging responsible contractors who invest in training, safety, and apprenticeship programs.

Prevailing wage law exists to reflect actual labor conditions in the locality. Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 instead distorts the labor market by selectively excluding high-wage, market-relevant data—contrary to the purpose of the statute and harmful to Maryland workers.

For these reasons, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association respectfully urges an unfavorable report.
Sincerely,

Jason Asher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association