



TESTIMONY OF THOMAS BELLO
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
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 Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (“MCAMW”), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

MCAMW represents approximately 200 signatory construction contractors, employing roughly 10,000 skilled workers and more than 1,500 apprentices across the region. Our member firms contribute significantly to the regional and State economy, generating nearly \$2 billion in annual revenue and approximately \$500 million each year in combined state, federal, and local tax revenue.

MCAMW contractors rely on accurate, market-based prevailing wage determinations to bid public projects responsibly, predictably, and competitively. Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 undermines that framework by excluding wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, which are major participants in the skilled construction labor market.

By selectively removing this data, the bill artificially suppresses prevailing wage rates, creating uncertainty in procurement and placing responsible, signatory contractors at a competitive disadvantage. It rewards low-road bidding practices while penalizing employers that invest heavily in apprenticeship training, workforce development, and safety.

Prevailing wage law should reflect the real labor market, not an artificially narrowed subset of employers. For these reasons, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington respectfully urges an unfavorable report.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello".

Thomas L. Bello
Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington