



Wednesday, January 28, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
The Honorable Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Greg Akerman, President, Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council on
SB 60: Fraud Prevention, Prevailing Wage, and Living Wage - Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 60. My name is Greg Akerman. I am the President 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.

The BDCBT supports SB 60. This bill is a landmark piece of legislation that strengthens worker protections in Maryland. It will help combat workplace fraud, wage theft, and create a climate of accountability among construction contractors. It is also very much needed. A recent study found Maryland leads US States in wage theft violations. The study analyzed US Department of Labor data and calculated that companies in Maryland committed more than 12,600 wage theft violations between 2023 and 2025, with an average of \$2,200 in back wages owed per employee.

SB 60 is chock full of game-changing improvements to protect workers. We especially appreciate that the bill stipulates that general contractors, including those on public works projects, are liable for violations committed by subcontractors *regardless* of whether there is a direct contractual relationship between the two. Tied in with that, the bill establishes legal consequences for contractors and subcontractors who underpay the state's unemployment insurance fund because they have fraudulently classified workers as independent contractors.