



The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
The Honorable Ken Kerr, Vice Chair
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council on
HB 1352: State Procurement - Worker Residency Requirements
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you, Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 1352. I am Ray Baker, 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 1352, which would establish worker residency requirements for state public works projects. The requirements differ based on the size of the project, but the collective outcome strengthens Maryland's workforce and provides pathways to careers for more Marylanders.

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.

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 1352 would help address. HB 1352 also encourages 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 1352.

Ray Baker
Maryland Director, BDCBT
RBaker@BDCBT.org
410.585.7862