



**TESTIMONY OF GARY ARMSTRONG
BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER IRONWORKERS LOCAL 5
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:

I submit this testimony on behalf of Ironworkers Local 5 in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

Ironworkers Local 5 represents skilled tradespeople who perform some of the most hazardous and technically demanding work on public construction projects, including structural steel, reinforcing steel, and major infrastructure components. The wages earned by our members reflect the training, certifications, and risk inherent in this work.

Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 alters prevailing wage calculations by excluding substantial portions of the construction labor market from consideration, resulting in artificially reduced wage determinations. Those reductions will flow directly into public works contracts, placing downward pressure on wages and undermining the standards that protect worker safety and project quality.

Prevailing wage laws are intended to ensure that public construction does not drive wages down or reward low-road practices. This legislation moves Maryland in the opposite direction. Ironworkers Local 5 respectfully urges the Committees to issue an unfavorable report. Sincerely, Gary Armstrong Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer Ironworkers Local 5.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Armstrong
Business Manager / FST
Ironworkers Local 5