



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 1173: State Procurement - Contractors and Vendors - Restrictions on Use of State Funds and Resources
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 864. 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.

The BDCBT supports HB 1173 which ensures those awarded state procurement contracts do not use that money to knowingly influence worker decisions about unionization. A union is the decision of the workers in a collective workplace, and they alone should make the decision if they wish to affiliate with an organization that seeks to represent the collective voice of workers. Any company or institution using state funds to influence this decision is violating the trust of the public and the right of workers for self-determination.

Most importantly, this legislation would make sure a vendor or contractor of the state doesn't use state money to engage in anti-union activism. The state should not be in the business of incentivizing anti-union activities, and this legislation codifies that belief. The Building Trades will work with other unions, elected officials and all Marylanders to aid any workers who want to collectively organize and speak with one unified voice in their workplace. This is the most certain way to deliver democracy in the workplace, and this legislation prevents any state vendor or contractor from using state funds to deny workplace democracy.

The BDCBT urges a favorable report on HB 1173.

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