

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689



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Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689

HB 299

February 12, 2026

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
FROM: Benjamin Lynn, ATU Local 689 Press and Communications Associate

Chair Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 299. ATU Local 689 supports the bill and urges you to issue a favorable report.

ATU Local 689 represents more than 15,000 transit workers and retirees throughout the Washington DC Metro Area performing many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, DASH, and MTA Commuter Bus among others. Our union helped turn low-wage, exploitative transit jobs into transit careers. We became an engine for the middle-class of the region.

Worker misclassification is a plague on dedicated and hardworking people throughout the state. Oftentimes, misclassification results in workers being denied access to federally and state guaranteed rights and benefits. The transit industry is not immune. Workers at some of the properties and companies Local 689 represents have been misclassified as “independent contractors” which could impact their guaranteed contract protections. It is critical that State agencies and regulators have more tools at their disposal to combat worker misclassification. If enacted into law, House Bill 299 would enhance the ability of Maryland to put a stop to worker misclassification.

Local 689 urges the committee to support House Bill 299.