

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HB582 / SB232: Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Applicability

House Economic Matters Committee

Senate Finance Committee

Dear esteemed Delegates and Senators:

As Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Local 602, please accept this letter in strong support of HB582 / SB232, Procurement-Prevailing Wage-Applicability, which eliminates the extremely onerous Prevailing Wage state funding threshold.

The UA Local 602 represents some 4,500 Journeymen, 1100 Apprentices, and 205 signatory Mechanical Construction and Service Contractors in the Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Process Piping Industry throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. We have an enormous economic and workforce footprint, including having performed some 7,200,000 work hours in 2019 alone. We understand how to make Maryland work, because we do it all day, each and every day.

As much as anyone, we understand the importance of the federal Davis-Bacon and state Prevailing Wage programs, which are critical to the training and development of skilled Apprentices, Journeymen, and the standards of construction excellence in building world-class infrastructure and economic growth. To those ends, this legislation is critically important.

Among states that participate in the Prevailing Wage programs, Maryland has the single highest dollar threshold at \$500,000, and the additional trigger of precluding Prevailing Wages if state funding is utilized. These two criteria challenge our small and medium size signatory contractors, which in turn, limits our participation in these projects and the participation and growth of our world-class Apprenticeship programs. As a necessary first step in improving and expanding participation in these workforce opportunities, UA Local 602 strongly supports this legislation, addressing one of these two challenges: the state funding threshold. Doing so will expand the number of highly-trained Apprentices, and increase the overall economic footprint of our small and medium size contractors.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable committee report.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your support for the working men and women of UA Local 602.

Respectfully yours,

Daniel W Loveless, Business Manager/
Financial Security Treasurer

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