



# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION Local No. 333

Affiliated with AFL-CIO and Canadian Labour Congress

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January 14, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 230 – Maryland Port Administration – Land Acquisition and Payment to Counties**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) supports Senate Bill 230, as it would directly and positively impact the hardworking men and women who make their living at the Port of Baltimore.

This legislation allows the ILA's partner at the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) to quickly acquire property to expand the terminal and cargo handling operations at the Port of Baltimore, one of the leading ports in the nation for freight and an economic engine for the State. With the construction of the Howard Street Tunnel project and the second 50-foot berth at Seagirt Marine Terminal, the MPA must continue to ensure the Port of Baltimore is competitive with neighboring ports along the U.S. East Coast. The MPA's ability to acquire property in a fair and meaningful way directly benefits our workforce and the City and the Counties of Maryland in which our workers reside. The MPA's acquisition of property is a clear indication of the continued growth and success of the hardworking men and women of the ILA at the Port of Baltimore and the significant investment in infrastructure and good-paying, family-sustaining jobs by the MPA.

The ILA Local 333 represents over 2000 maritime workers in Baltimore, who bravely operate on the front lines of the public marine terminals and facilities at the Port of Baltimore. During this challenging time amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Port of Baltimore, and its workforce, continue to play an integral role in maintaining our nation's supply chain, moving vital goods to the healthcare industry and consumers. The Port of Baltimore generates 15,330 direct family-supporting jobs for Marylanders, where the average wage of these jobs exceeds the statewide average annual wage by 9.5%. The Port handles more automobiles, light trucks, and roll-on/roll-off farm and construction machinery than any other port in the U.S.

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For the Port of Baltimore to continue to generate family-supporting jobs and income for the hardworking men and women on the frontlines of this industry, the MPA must be able to act swiftly to acquire the few industrial properties that remain and negotiate terms in a fair and meaningful way.

The ILA respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 230 a favorable report.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Cowan".

Scott Cowan  
President, ILA Local 333  
Vice President, International Longshoremen's Association  
443 756-2432