

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



**7050 Oakland Mills Road  
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Columbia, MD 21046**

**Phone: 410-290-3890  
www.midatlanticpipetrades.o**

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Maryland House of Delegate – Economic Matters

**TO:** Chairman CT Wilson, Vice-Chair Brian Crosby, and Members of the Committee

**FROM:** Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters

## **Support HB 388 – Prevailing Wage – University of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College of Maryland - Applicability**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our over 10,000 members and their families from United Association Locals across Maryland, I ask that you **SUPPORT HB 388**.

When tax dollars are spent, there is an expectation that they are being used to get the best value for the taxpayer. Best value does not just mean being the cheapest cost; it means the best return on investment. Prevailing Wage does just that. Prevailing Wage ensures that the "prevailing" or "Market" rate for a given construction craft is to be used for the taxpayer-funded project. This means public construction projects are not forcing the market rate for private construction down. In addition, it provides small and medium-sized businesses and a local and more diverse workforce to work on a local construction project because it sets a floor on wages and benefits. This wage floor means that larger contractors who bring their workers in from out of state must compete on a level playing field with these local contractors.

The University of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College of Maryland are public institutions of higher education. This means they are funded by taxpayer dollars and should meet the highest standard when procuring for construction. Prevailing Wage will mean that all contractors are bidding from a level playing field, so contractors that may try to cheat their workers with wage theft or misclassification are less likely to perform the work. A level playing field is all we ask. With a level playing field, our contractors can win more bids, and when our contractors win more bids, we can help bring more people into the middle class with good-paying jobs with benefits. In the end, we are not just looking out for our members, but all workers. We want all workers to achieve the American dream.

For these reasons, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 388**

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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**Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5** – Camp Springs, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10** – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110** – Norfolk, VA  
**Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669** – Columbia, MD

**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486** – Baltimore, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489** – Cumberland, MD  
**Steamfitters Local 602** – Capitol Heights, MD

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