



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 388 Prevailing Wage -University System of Maryland-Applicability February 1, 2022

TO: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you join the Maryland members of IBEW Local 26 in full **support** of HB 388. This legislation will take Maryland tax dollars and put it right back into the pockets and pocketbooks of Maryland taxpayers, in lieu of their skilled labor on campuses throughout the Freestate.

Please take note of how Prevailing wage is defined. Prevailing wage is nothing more than the “market rate”. The rate determined by the skill and need of a certain craft. It includes the locale and it’s cost of living. You will notice that everyone in society is more or less paid the “market rate”, accept construction workers. Engineers, janitors, architects, teachers and administration all are paid the “market rate”, on and off campus. However, for some reason: plumbers, electricians, iron workers and carpenters are considered unworthy of the “market rate”. This is not just a University System problem; this blue-collar prejudice is seen in the private market as well. We think, when state money is involved, higher education should lead the way and pay construction workers the “market rate”. We are not asking for one penny more than what the market demands. Working families in our state are the ones that pay the taxes, do the labor, and pay the tuition for their loved ones to attend these very institutions. Is it not right that these working mothers and fathers are paid less than “market rate”?

As legislators I respectfully ask you to stand up for the working people of our great state. As a representative of my sisters and brothers in the electrical trade, please join me in **support** of HB 388. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for your leadership in Annapolis and throughout the greatest state, in the greatest country in the world.

