

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO
National Safety Council



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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Finance Committee On

SB 001 State Finance and Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Stop Work Orders

Support

February 8, 2022

Madame Chair Kelley and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **support** of Senate Bill 001.

My name is Rico Albacarys and I'm an employee and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, in Baltimore.

In my capacity as an employee of Local 24, I often go to prevailing wage job sites to speak to unrepresented workers. I have minimal access and no authority, so it's very difficult to have a meaningful conversation with the men and women working on these construction sites. Even with such minimal access, the amount of wage theft I have seen is astonishing. I use the word theft because

that's what it is. Not paying a worker properly, or misclassifying them entirely, is not only stealing from the worker, it's also stealing from the State.

Employees are being misclassified improperly for the job they're performing or classified as 1099 independent contractors, as opposed to employees. Often times, this is happening to the most vulnerable workers who may be afraid to speak up for a variety of reasons. Our Maryland residents deserve better and we should be doing better. We should hold contractors and subcontractors accountable when they are mistreating workers and SB 001 helps to remedy this situation. Someone with authority can investigate these bad actors and be sure Maryland workers are being treated fairly in regards to wages and classification. Rules have no impact if there aren't consequences. SB 001 states these consequences plainly and ensures low road contractors will be held accountable for their actions. This is why I am asking the committee to **support** SB 001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rico Albacarys', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Manager