



Eastern Atlantic States
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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February 8, 2022

Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair
Miller Senate Office Building,
3 East Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

In the State of Maryland workers deserve protections that allow for fair pay and prevent abuses from employers. Prevailing wage in Maryland already levels the playing field and ensure that workers are paid the rate they deserve for the work they perform. Too many times though, bad actors in the construction industry do not adhere to Maryland prevailing wage laws and use wage theft and misclassification of workers to skirt their responsibilities. That is why the Executive Board of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters and the over 3,000 highly skilled union carpenters we represent in Maryland ask you to support SB1/HB145.

As you may know, SB1/HB145 authorizes the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to issue a stop work order for each work site where the Commissioner has made an initial determination that a contractor or subcontractor may have violated the prevailing wage requirements. This bill will also allow a prime contractor to terminate the contract of a subcontractor without incurring certain liability if the subcontractor has a stop work order issued against them. These are tools necessary to make sure the bad actors who cheat workers are held accountable in a real way. These contractors should not continue to profit off their disregard of prevailing wage and workers. Stop work orders take this profit away immediately.

By defending prevailing wage, we are defending the future of Maryland. Prevailing wage provides pathways for apprenticeships on projects to train the next generation of workers, and provides more opportunity for law-abiding contractors to succeed. A majority of States like Maryland that have prevailing wage use stop work orders to enforce the law. Leaders in Maryland



EASTERN ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

Representing members in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington D.C., and 10 counties in North Carolina

like you can make sure this effective tool is available to protect Maryland workers by supporting SB1/HB145.

Thank you for your consideration for SB1/HB145. Please know the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters is here to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

William C. Sproule
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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