



Founded 1889

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

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House Ways and Means Committee

To: Chair- Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary

Vice Chair – Alonzo Washington

HOUSE BILL 849 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE JOB CREATION INCENTIVES

Position: Support

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Gerald Jackson, I am the Secretary- Treasurer for the Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO and I am also a 42 year member of the Steamfitters & Plumbers Local Union 486 of which I am the Assistant Business Manager.

I'm submitting this testimony in support of **HB 849** for the following reason:

When taxpayer dollars are being used to incentivize businesses for the purposes of job creation, labor is 100% in favor of this practice. We want Maryland to have the ability to attract businesses that are willing to pay Life –Sustaining Wages and Benefits. This bill applies Labor/Job standards to all the tax credits that taxpayers allocate to businesses to create jobs in Maryland for hopefully state residents only. If a business is looking to be supplemented by taxpayer's dollars for job creation, or be a candidate for a tax deferred deduction for job creation, then the job must, pay at least 150% of the state minimum wage(or prevailing wage if it's a covered craft, be located in Maryland, provide career advancement training, guarantee the right to collectively bargain, be covered by Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation, offer employer provided health insurance, have retirement benefits and provide fair scheduling.

For these reason I'm asking for a favorable report for **HB 849**.

Respectfully,

Gerald W. Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer MD. STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO