



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 442 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-SPORTS FACILITIES-FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION February 22, 2023

TO: Sen. Guy Guzzone, Chair and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Committee, please join with me in **opposition to SB 442**. This piece of legislation is just an example of how the Stadium Authority has skirted it's responsibility regarding Maryland workers and how the tax money is being shared by everyone **but** the men and women that work in our state.

For decades the Maryland Stadium Authority has taken billions of tax dollars and have exploited the working people of this state, the very same people that supply those billions of tax dollars. I use the word exploited because whenever you pay someone below the market rate, you are exploiting them. The Maryland Stadium Authority also does not believe in local hiring. Not just individuals that live in our state, but companies that make millions of dollars from Maryland taxpayers, are quite often from outside the state borders.

The easiest thing for me to do would be support SB 442 with amendments. However, I cannot accept the way the Maryland Stadium Authority has paid Marylanders below the "market rate" for years. If I were to suggest amendments, they would be:

- 1- Each construction job would be required to pay Prevailing Wages (market rate). Preferred veteran and women hiring, registered apprenticeships and local hiring.
- 2- Each General Contractor, as well as each sub-contractor must be a Maryland Business

Two simple ideas and two ideas that would be supported by the public, wholeheartedly. I now must convince the Stadium Authority to support these ideas. I was hoping this committee can send the same message to the Stadium Authority, by **opposing SB 442**. Thank you

