



February 16, 2023

The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair  
The Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building Room 231  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 61 –Utility Contractors - Employment and Licensure– Requirements and Application  
Position – Support**

Thank you Chair Wilson and Vice Chair Crosby and members of the House Economic Matters Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 61.

My name is Victoria Leonard, Political and Legislative Director for the Baltimore Washington Laborers' District Council (BWLDC), an affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America, or LiUNA for short. The BWLDC represents more than 7,500 members across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our members are proudly employed on many infrastructure construction projects across the region.

LiUNA supports HB 61. It is a good use of taxpayer dollars to require utility contractors to meet a minimum of apprenticeship training with wages, health insurance and pensions for their employees with an outreach for local hire and to provide an opportunity for returning citizens, women, which many are single head of households, minorities and veterans. Jobs with fair wages and benefits will lift up residents and create a career pathway to the middle class. These requirements and goals are good for Maryland and our citizens and our businesses. House Bill 0061 is a means to that end.

LiUNA urges the Committee for a favorable report.