



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 61 UTILITY CONTRACTORS-EMPLOYMENT & LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS February 16, 2023

TO: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, please join me in **support of HB 61**, a bill that addresses the working people of our great state. Quite often bills that come before the General Assembly address work, but not workers. These bills mention money for business, not labor. Finally a bill that needs no amendments, a bill that addresses the Maryland electrical worker, **HB 61**.

As you know I am a proponent of unions and union labor. However, this bill is not geared to the Union electrical worker, just the electrical worker. Nowhere in this bill will you see the word "union". In HB 61 you will see words that we can all agree on, words like: veterans, women, returning citizens, healthcare, retirement benefits, minority individuals, prevailing wage and compliance. These words, as is this bill, are labor standards that a union populated state like Maryland, should be considered commonplace. I salute the sponsor of this bill for thinking of the men and women that work on these utility projects. HB 61 also sets goals such as 25% of the work performed by Maryland residents, including women and minority individuals.

Please join myself and the working people of our state in **supporting HB 61**. Support the sponsor of this bill, support those that benefit from this bill and support labor standards like this, in all future legislation. Please **support HB 61** Thank you

