



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier
Vice Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier,

I would like to express my full support for *Senate Bill 648 - Business Regulation - Contractors, Subcontractors, and Brokers - Prohibited Conduct*.

Wage theft is one of the most challenging obstacles that many workers in Maryland, especially those in the Building Trades industry, face every single day. There is an estimated \$60 million in wage theft yearly in Maryland and tactics can vary - theft can look as simple as failing to pay minimum wage, prevailing wage, or overtime, or as complex as misclassifying workers based on the type of work completed.

There is no question: Those who engage in wage theft are stealing money from the pockets of their workers. Period. This issue is far more widespread in Maryland than it should be, and is one that must be rectified immediately for the sake of all Marylanders.

SB648 moves Maryland forward by prohibiting a person from serving or acting as a broker between a contractor and subcontractor during the 5-year period immediately following the date the person was convicted of an offense constituting criminal malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance under any federal or State law.

It is my hope that by creating meaningful sanctions for bad actors in Maryland, they will be encouraged to think twice before stealing from their hardworking employees and committing other criminal offenses as an employer. And if those bad actors ignore this new legislation and continue to work in bad faith, then there is no place for them in the State of Maryland. We will continue to move forward and build without them.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 648 - Business Regulation - Contractors, Subcontractors, and Brokers - Prohibited Conduct* the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone", is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

David Trone
Member of Congress