

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2ND FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

Dear esteemed Members of the Council:

As Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Steamfitters Local 602, please accept this letter in strong support of Bill 35-21, Prevailing Wage Requirements – Construction Contracts – Amendments.

The UA Steamfitters Local 602 represents some 4,200 Journeymen, 920 Apprentices, and 200 plus signatory Mechanical Construction and Service Contractors in the Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Process Piping Industry throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. Our economic and workforce footprint is enormous, including having performed some 7,231,500 work hours in 2020 alone. We understand how to make Maryland work, because it's what we do, each and every day.

Our work is a business-labor partnership, and our contractor affiliates, represented by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington (MCAMW), is a powerful driver of local economies throughout the region, generating some \$2 BILLION in annual revenue, and some \$500 MILLION in state, federal and local taxes each and every year.

As much as anyone, we understand the importance of the federal Davis-Bacon and state/local Prevailing Wage programs, which are critical in our training and preparing the next generation of skilled Apprentices and Journeymen who will drive the standards of construction excellence in building world-class infrastructure and economic growth. But we can and must do much better, just as Arlington County, Virginia, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County have recently done with their prevailing wage reforms.

That's why this legislating is critical.

Bill 35-21 makes several common-sense, conforming, and necessary alignments to the county law. For example, the bill conforms the county prevailing wage law to the state prevailing wage law, with regard prevailing wage thresholds. In addition, the bill expands the scope of prevailing wage to public-private partnerships (P3s) and several other construction works. And finally, the bill adopts the recently-passed Baltimore City local hiring requirement for county public works construction projects, to ensure greater stimulative return on investment for county taxpayers, by ensuring that more residents of Montgomery County receive the benefit of county-funded projects.

In addition, we are supporting Council President Hucker's amendment to address a drafting omission. The amendment conforms the county law to the federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965, and narrowly-tailors the county law specifically to mechanical systems contracts.

In a time when our economy and jobs are stagnating, and recession is rising, one solution is clear: Prevailing Wages can help to train and employ local workers, and fire up the economic base, if we unleash the full power of the program. We can do it, and we must.

For these reasons, we ask for your support of this important legislation, with amendment.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your support for the working men and women of UA Steamfitters Local 602.

Very truly yours,

Chris Madello

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer