

**Testimony of Lorie Craig, Owner, Craig Electric**  
on  
**Montgomery County Council Bill 35-21:**  
**Prevailing Wage Requirements – Construction Contracts - Amendments**

**Position: Support**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Bill 35-21. My name is Lorie Craig. I am the owner of Craig Electric – proudly located in Rockville, Maryland in District 4. My husband Kevin and I employ five people, and we have been in electrical contracting business for more than 20 years. Our specialty is electric controls, and we have worked on many construction projects across the region.

Craig Electric supports Bill 35-21. We support lowering the county's prevailing wage threshold to the state's current level of \$250,000. We support expanding prevailing wage to include routine operation, repair, and maintenance. And we support expanding prevailing wage to cover development projects receiving subsidies from the county.

From the perspective of a construction contractor, these adjustments to the county's prevailing wage law will be very helpful for several reasons.

Number one, by broadening the coverage of the county's prevailing wage law, you are further leveling the playing field for high-road contractors like my company. It is well-established that prevailing wage prevents low-road contractors from undercutting quality contractors like Craig Electric who are committed to paying family supporting wages and benefits. When there is a level playing field, I know my company can compete and win work.

Number two, prevailing wage helps companies like mine retain a trained and skilled workforce. This in turn reduces turnover and injury rates, and boosts worker productivity. All of these factors combined help offset the impact of prevailing wage on construction costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please vote in favor of this bill.