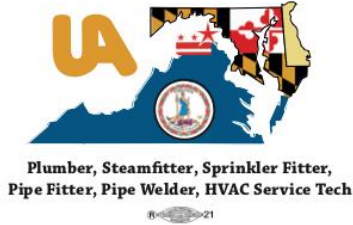


**Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association**



Maryland State Senate – Finance Committee

**TO:** Sen. Dolores Kelly, Chair; Sen. Brian Feldman, Vice Chair; and member of the Senate Finance Committee.

**FROM:** Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

**Oppose SB 15 Public School Construction – Innovation Incentive Pilot Entitled: Program – Prevail Wage Requirements**

**&**

**Oppose SB 40 – Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Modifications**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you oppose both SB 15 & SB 40.

Raising the percentage of state money required on public projects will hurt the construction industry. The only thing it will do is allow local governments to take more state tax dollar for these projects while hiring contractors who pay lower salaries and likely give no benefits in the name of saving taxpayers money.

Prevailing wage ensures there is a level playing field between contractors when bidding on a construction project. It does this by taking salary out of the equations and avoids a race to the bottom to have the lowest bid. It ensures that the contractors who pay their employee's a good wage and give quality benefits do not get penalized. It also ensures that bad actors who misclassify their employees or choose their profits over giving their employees a living wage, all so that they can provide a lower bid, don't always win.

Most importantly the prevailing wage helps create a more highly trained and skilled workforce who will do quality work. By doing this, it also helps to boost the state's economy by creating not just a good paying job, but a good paying career for these workers. The good pay and benefits also help decrease or eliminate the need for workers to use public assistance programs.

As you know, with public contracts it is important to look for the best value to the public. All aspects of the project should be considered, from the cost of the project to the quality of the work, to the treatment of the employees.

For all the reasons mentioned above, I urge you to oppose both SB 15 and SB 40.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher

Political Director

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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