



SIERRA CLUB
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

To,
The Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland

October 26, 2021

Bill 35-21, Prevailing Wage Requirements – Construction Contracts – Amendments
Position: Support

Dear Council members,

The Sierra Club Montgomery County supports bill 35-21.

This legislation expands the coverage of Montgomery County's prevailing wage law, ensuring that workers on a broader range of public works projects are paid family-supporting wages. The bill also includes a section to promote local hiring of county residents.

The Sierra Club, nationally and in Maryland, is committed to the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion, and supports placing these principles at the center of environmental initiatives. These principles embrace respecting and supporting the rights of workers, which includes their ability to have good jobs, earn a decent living, and enjoy on-the-job health and safety protections.

Sierra Club supports Bill 35-21 because it promotes quality construction work and produces good value for taxpayers. There is significant research that demonstrates prevailing wage laws boost worker productivity, reduce injury rates, and increase apprenticeship training, all of which helps to address the shortage of skilled labor in construction. For these reasons, Sierra Club specifically has supported prevailing wage on utility and stormwater management projects.

The Sierra Club has supported prevailing wage legislation at both the local and state levels, including most recently Maryland Senate Bill 35 in 2021 and Anne Arundel County Bill 72-21.

The Sierra Club urges the Council to pass Bill 35-21 as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Shruti Bhatnagar,
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