



# Plumbers Local Union No. 5

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO

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October 30, 2021

Dear Council Members:

As **Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer** of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, please accept this letter in strong support of Bill 35-21, Prevailing Wage Requirements – Construction Contracts – Amendments.

The UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 have been installing, maintaining, and servicing the waste, water & gas systems in the Washington D.C. area since 1890. We represent some 1,800 of the most highly skilled construction workers to be found anywhere, including over 300 apprentices, which provide the workforce excellence across some 65 signatory construction contractors throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area.

We provide and fund some of the most comprehensive and rigorous skills training programs in the nation, due in large part to the Davis-Bacon and Prevailing Wage programs at the federal, state and county levels. It's because of prevailing wage reforms like those found in Bill 35-21, as well as those recently enacted in Arlington County, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County, that we can prepare thousands of young apprentices for outstanding middle-class jobs, with health care, pensions, and scholarships.

Make no mistake - this bill is an extremely powerful anti-poverty and stimulative measure, that is greatly needed.

Specifically, Bill 35-21 conforms and aligns our local prevailing wage law with the state prevailing wage law, making our regional wage rates more uniform, and more competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. The bill also broadens the local prevailing wage program by including projects like P3s, other construction crafts, and includes targeted local hiring provisions. But most important to my members, the bill expands county prevailing wages to service contracts, which encompasses much of the work and skills training that we do.

It is important to note that, due to a drafting omission, we are supporting a critically important amendment, offered by Council President Hucker, to conform the new county service contract to the federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965. That amendment also significantly narrows the scope of the service contract applicability to mechanical systems contracts, specifically. Without this amendment, which should have been in the original bill, the bill falls short of achieving the full economic impact that was envisioned, and that is necessary.

Members of the Council, this bill will have an enormous impact in terms of lifting workers into the middle-class and helping to focus our scarce county safety-net resources on those families who most need them.

On behalf of my members and the thousands of other workers whose lives will be positively impacted by this legislation, thank you for your leadership, for your service, and for your support.

Sincerely,

Terriea "T" Smalls  
UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local No. 5  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

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