

Dear Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW), and in solidarity with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Maryland, I write today to express our strong support for the Bill 35-21, Prevailing Wage Requirements – Construction Contracts – Amendments.

We appreciate strong leadership of Council President Hucker, Councilmember Jawando, and all 7 members who have cosponsored this important legislation to incentivize good jobs, strong apprenticeship training, and building a thriving regional economy.

The MCAMW represents 180 construction contractors, some 10,000 workers, and 1,000 working apprentices. Our economic footprint throughout the region is substantial, generating some \$2 BILLION in annual revenue, and some \$500 MILLION in state, federal and local taxes each and every year.

We support Bill 35-21, because we know that prevailing wages (and Davis Bacon wages on the federal level), yield better outcomes, more timely deadlines, and far fewer workplace injuries. That's why Arlington County, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County have all recently enacted prevailing wage reforms.

Bill 35-21 is critical for our members and contractors, in conforming, expanding and aligning the county law to both the state and the federal laws. Specifically, the bill conforms the county law to the state prevailing wage threshold, expands prevailing wages to public-private partnerships (P3s), and implements local hiring requirements for county public works construction projects.

In addition, we are supporting the Council President's amendment to fix an omission in the original bill draft. The amendment will align the new county law on Bill 35-21to the federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965, but precisely limits that scope only to mechanical systems contracts.

Thank you so much for your support of this important legislation, and I hope for its passage.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Bello Executive Vice President

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