



February 10, 2012

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton  
Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

Re: SB 219 - Procurement - Public Work Contracts - Project Labor Agreements - **Oppose**

Dear Senator Middleton:

SB 219 restricts public work projects of more than \$500,000.00 to be executed by agreements with labor organizations to allegedly ensure that the main issues of cost, efficiency, quality, safety, timeliness, skilled labor, and labor stability are satisfied. This also has the effect of increasing the cost to Maryland taxpayers. PLA agreements are often awarded to companies outside of Maryland because of the unionized skill requirements to the detriment to Maryland workers.

There is no provision that work must be performed by Maryland based businesses, and since only about 11% of the workforce is unionized, then 89% of the workforce is eliminated from the pool of eligible workers regardless of their qualifications. The issues cited above can easily be structured in the contract agreement with bonding provisions while at the same time making jobs available to a wider spectrum of Maryland workers.

For these issues above, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce asks that your committee give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Joseph M. Getty  
Delegate Susan W. Krebs