



March 26, 2012

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

Re: SB 368 - Procurement - Prevailing Wage - Applicability - **Oppose**

Dear Senator Middleton:

SB 368 would apply the state prevailing wage to any public works project funded with at least 25% state money. The current threshold for the law is 50% state funding.

We oppose this bill because it would add to the cost of state-funded projects. The current law is needlessly inflating the cost of state contracts by millions of dollars annually on construction contracts. The law undermines the purpose of competitive bidding, which is to get the best service at the lowest cost. At this time, the state has a billion dollar gap between ongoing expenditures and revenues, it is ill-advised for the state to pay above market wages on public works projects.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McMullin".

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

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