

STATEMENT OF FRED CODDING
IRON WORKERS EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND
HOUSE COMMERCE AND ENERGY - SUBCOMMITTEE #4 COMMITTEE
JANUARY 2023

I AM FRED CODDING OF 10382 MAIN STREET, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030. THIS STATEMENT IS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE IRON WORKERS EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (IWEA).

WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS CONSTRUCTION'S CONCERNS WITH HOUSE BILL 1988, THE PAID LEAVE ACT. THE IRON WORKERS EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (IWEA) CONTRACTORS WORK THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA. ITS CONTRACTOR MEMBERS, WHICH INCLUDE MINORITY CONTRACTORS, WORK ON SMALL AND LARGE PROJECTS.

MEMBERS OF THE IRON WORKERS EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION ITSELF SUPPLY AND INSTALL REINFORCING STEEL, STRUCTURAL STEEL, WINDOW WALL, CURTAINWALL AND RELATED PRODUCTS ON PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH.

WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ARE SMALL BUSINESSES.

OUR MEMBERS EMPLOY IRON WORKERS WHO ARE WORKING ON JOBS THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA AND NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS. THEY MAY BE ON A JOB HERE IN VIRGINIA, BUT TOMORROW MAY BE IN NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, WEST VIRGINIA, THE DISTRICT

OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA OR DELAWARE. THEY TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY. IN ADDITION, THEY MOVE FROM ONE CONTRACTOR TO ANOTHER IN RELATIVELY SHORT PERIODS OF TIME. THIS IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INDUSTRY. AS A RESULT, THEIR PAY LEVELS REFLECT MOBILITY. IN ADDITION, CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FREQUENTLY PROVIDE COSTLY PENSIONS, HEALTH CARE, WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND PREMIUM TIME ON A NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS AS WELL AS WEEKENDS. IN ADDITION, THEY PROVIDE DISABILITY INSURANCE. IN ADDITION TO THESE, OUR MEMBER CONTRACTORS ALSO CONTRIBUTE \$1.45 PER IRON WORKER MANHOUR WORKED FOR CONTINUING TRAINING OF APPRENTICE AND UPGRADING PROGRAMS.

THE BURDENS THE ACT PLACES ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS INCREASES THOSE THEY ARE ALREADY HAVING TO ENDURE. THE ACT SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASES RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS. NUMEROUS OTHER JURISDICTIONS HAVE RECOGNIZED THESE CONCERNS. IF A BILL PASSES, WE ASK THAT THE CONCERNS OF CONSTRUCTION BE ACCOMMODATED.

WE REQUEST AN EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION. ABSENT A FULL EXEMPTION, WE REQUEST AN EXEMPTION FOR THOSE WITH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS. AS NOTED, THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN MANY OTHER MAJOR JURISDICTIONS.