

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 0994, Support with Amendment

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Vice Chairwoman Kagan,

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Maryland Electricians Act (Senate Bill 0994). While we support the overall intent to modernize the state's electrician licensing process, we believe certain clarifications are necessary to ensure this legislation is effective as intended.

HPE and its subsidiary, Aruba Networks, manufactures and sells a range of technology products including networking, servers, and storage hardware. Some of our products make extensive use of Class 2 and Class 3 Power-Limited circuits, also referred to as Power over Ethernet (PoE) systems. This newer technology has been confirmed to be safe for installation by unlicensed professionals by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which produces the National Electrical Code. PoE systems are clearly distinct from other types of circuits given their complete safety from shock or fire hazard and comparative ease of installation.

As such, we would support an amendment to the bill in section 6-303 as follows:

(B) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT REQUIRE:

...

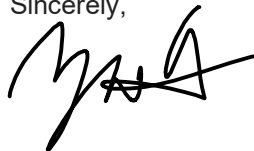
**(3) A PERSON TO HOLD A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE STATE BOARD
IF THE PERSON:**

...

**(V) DESIGNS, INSTALLS, ERECTS, REPAIRS, MAINTAINS, OR
ALTERS ANY ELECTRICAL WIRING, FIXTURE, APPLIANCE,
APPARATUS, RACEWAY OR CONDUIT THAT IS CLASSIFIED AS
CLASS 2 OR CLASS 3 REMOTE-CONTROL, SIGNALING, AND
POWER-LIMITED CIRCUITS, AS DEFINED BY THE NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL CODE**

By so updating the language of this bill, the state can ensure that new technology will be competently installed by the appropriate professionals while upholding its admirable intent of keeping Maryland's buildings and homes safe.

Sincerely,



Zaki Barzinji
Manager, State & Local Government Affairs