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To: Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 794 – County Boards of Education-Establishing Regional Career and Technical Education Schools-Authority

IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 794 and requests a favorable report. As a leader in training students in the electrical industry through its apprenticeship program, IEC Chesapeake supports efforts to build a career and technical education (CTE) school for students living in the Upper and Middle Shore areas. The use of state funds to construct a CTE school, if needed, would reap benefits for Maryland's economy. Like other states, Maryland's businesses are struggling to hire skilled workers to replace their current aging workforce.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

