



## House Bill 220

Date: February 14, 2020

Bill Title: Income Tax Credit - Employment of Apprentices - Extension  
Re: Letter of Support

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Registered Apprenticeships connect Marylanders to sustainable employment, ensure that employers have a highly skilled workforce, and are critical to the success of Maryland's diverse industries. House Bill 220 ensures the continued success of Registered Apprenticeships by extending the Registered Apprenticeship tax credit for an additional five (5) years, from a sunset of June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2025.

Registered Apprenticeships provide a pathway to economic security and valuable employment for thousands of Marylanders. Registered apprentices utilize the "earn and learn" approach, which allows employees to earn a salary while completing a combination of on-the-job training and related instruction. This first step on the career path is often necessary to ensure that Marylanders are prepared to succeed in today's economy.

A highly skilled workforce is critical to the success of Maryland's businesses. By providing an incentive to utilize the Registered Apprenticeship model, House Bill 220 ensures that businesses continue to capitalize on the viable career pathways provided to registered apprentices. In turn, the model provides businesses with the opportunity to recruit and train a workforce that is prepared to meet the standards of Maryland's consumers.

Our company has utilized the Apprenticeship Tax Credit since 2017. The credit helps offset the tuition costs that we pay on behalf of our employees. The highly skilled labor market is facing a shortage and as an employer we must stay competitive to attract and retain new apprentices. The Apprenticeship Tax Credit is a benefit given to small companies like Ennis Electric that allows us to hire and train more apprentices to provide them the benefit of a free education.

Maryland is best served by a workforce that is capable of providing in-demand services to Maryland's consumers. House Bill 220 ensures that Maryland's diverse industries continue to thrive by paving the way for registered apprentices to find a career path and grow within the industry.

By extending the Registered Apprenticeship tax credit, Maryland will continue to lead the way in Registered Apprenticeships. **For this reason, Ennis Electric Company, Inc. respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee on House Bill 220.**