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March 5, 2020

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support with Amendment for HB 1457 – Apprenticeship Start-Up Act of 2020

IEC Chesapeake supports House Bill 1457 with an amendment to not limit the tax credit to only five apprentices for Maryland employers. IEC Chesapeake supports efforts to both extend and increase the apprenticeship tax credit from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per apprentice. The shortage of skilled workers makes it essential that apprenticeship programs keep expanding and providing opportunities to both young and old workers.

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](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

