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8751 Freestate Drive
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To: Members of House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose House Bill (HB) 852 – State Procurement-Leases and Construction Contracts-Performance Suspension Pending Audit

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents more than 200 electrical and low voltage businesses who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has more than 1,000 electrical apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake opposes HB 852 because it requires the suspension of a construction contract if the contract is subject to an investigation by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA). The suspension ends 60 days after the investigation by OLA. HB 852 would unfairly punish contractors who would need to cease working on projects for at least two months and possibly many more months. Suspending one contractor on a construction project can be very disruptive and costly to the entire project. In addition, jobs would be lost and communities and delays in the work would likely increase the overall cost of the project.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, 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.

