



March 25, 2025

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Support House Bill (HB) 850 with Amendments - Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Contracts and Apprentices-Establishment**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents approximately 200 electrical contractors who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has approximately 1,000 registered apprentices in the electrical trade including low voltage apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake and Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) both have extensive apprenticeship programs which train Maryland residents in the skilled construction trades. House Bill 850 in its current form does include representatives from IEC Chesapeake or ABC in the proposed workgroup. Merit shop contractors from IEC Chesapeake and ABC should be included in the workgroup since they play an integral role in training the next generation of skilled construction workers through their apprenticeship programs. We also support adding a representative from the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) to the workgroup.

We suggest the following amendment to House Bill 850:

Proposed Amendment

On Page 2, after Line 23, insert the following:

- (iv) One representative of Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake;**
- (v) One representative of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC); and**
- (vi) One representative of Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA)**

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keefe 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.