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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake
Re: Support Senate Bill 157 – Employers of Ex-Offenders – Liability - Immunity

IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill 157 and requests a favorable report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee. Senate Bill 157 would provide immunity to certain industries, including the construction industry, when hiring an employee who has completed a term of imprisonment or probation. The employer cannot be held liable for the actions of an employee who meets the above conditions. Maryland employers who seek to hire ex-offenders would be protected from unfair lawsuits for the actions of these hires. Senate Bill 157 is needed to further encourage employers to hire ex-offenders who often face significant barriers to employment when attempting to re-enter the 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.

Thank you 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.

