



## House Bill 220

Date: February 14, 2020

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

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 been able to utilize the Credit to hire and train more apprentices than in prior years. Additionally, we have been able to reinvest the Credit to provide more training and certifications which creates a safer and more educated labor pool for DEL Electric and the State of Maryland. As an employer we pay not only our apprentices wages but also for the cost of their education to become a highly skilled worker. The Apprenticeship Tax Credit assists us in our quest to hire, train, and grow more skilled labor. As we all continue to operate in a working world that is at a perpetual shortage of skilled labor, the Apprenticeship Tax Credit helps to minimize some of these difficulties.

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, Douglas Electric & Lighting, Inc. respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee on House Bill 220.**