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February 15, 2022

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 525 – Public Utilities – Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill (SB) 525 and asks for an unfavorable report.

Although, IEC Chesapeake supports efforts to promote and expand green energy in Maryland, as an organization representing merit shop contractors, we oppose SB525 in its current form for two reasons. The first issue is the language on Page 7 indicates that the jobs coming out of this legislation are earmarked for union contractors. The second issue is that the proposed Distribution System Planning Workgroup excludes representatives of merit shop contractors.

IEC Chesapeake requests that Senate Bill 525 be amended to provide merit shop contractors the opportunity to participate in the Distribution System Planning Workgroup as a member and are able to benefit from this legislation.

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, 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.

