



Maryland Chapter National Electrical Contractors Association

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March 3, 2023

FAVORABLE: HB1122 - Maryland Construction Education & Innovation Fund - Funding - Alteration

Dear Chair Barnes and members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I write today to express our support for House Bill 1122 which would increase the funding for the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation (MCCEI) from \$250,000 to \$625,000 beginning in 2025.

Maryland NECA represents 75 construction contractors, some 2,000 workers and over 400 working apprentices. NECA represents electrical contracting firms that employ highly skilled electricians for field construction work, and provide those employees with high-value wages, family medical care, retirement plans, and continuing education through workforce development and apprenticeship training programs.

The construction industry is a vital and necessary aspect for the continued growth of Maryland and its residents. Now, more so than ever, the need for highly skilled tradespeople is at an all time high. For Maryland to grow and prosper, the need to train and build the next workforce is essential, and that starts at the high school level by educating young people about the opportunities that the construction industry can offer.

By shoehorning every young person into college and not providing them the information about other means to success, we are doing them a great disservice. MCCEI has advocated and promoted the construction industry by providing information to our high school students about careers that don't follow the typical collegiate pathway. There are amazing opportunities in the construction industry and it is thanks in part to the work of MCCEI who educates students, teachers, and parents about the construction industry.

By increasing funding for MCCEI, we are providing opportunities to the young people of Maryland who have decided that college isn't for them. House Bill 1122 is critical for the continued growth and prosperity for the State of Maryland and it is for these reasons that Maryland NECA supports House Bill 1122 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

William Yull
Executive Director
Maryland Chapter, NECA