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To: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill 1122-Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund-Funding-Alteration

IEC Chesapeake supports House Bill 1122 and requests a favorable report from the House Appropriations Committee. IEC Chesapeake supports The Maryland for Construction Education and Innovation's efforts to promote and connect career opportunities in the skilled trades, design, and engineering professions. It is critical that there is a continuous influx of new skilled workers for Maryland's businesses. IEC Chesapeake believes that it makes sense beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 to increase the state annual appropriation to \$625,000 from \$250,000. This increase will assist the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation in its mission to prepare workers for good careers in the construction industry.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, 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.

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.

