



T 301.621.9545
800.470.3013
F 301.912.1665
www.iecchesapeake.com

8751 Freestate Drive
Suite 250
Laurel, MD 20723

February 14, 2023

To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill 494 – Labor and Employment-Private-Sector Employers-Right to Work

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake supports House Bill (HB) 494 and requests a favorable report.

IEC Chesapeake believes that workers should not be required to be members of a labor union as a condition of employment. IEC Chesapeake represents merit shop electrical contractors who operate without unions. We believe that workers should be given the opportunity to decline joining a labor union or paying union dues. It is important to note that Right to Work laws do not require or prohibit labor unions. Individual workers are given the choice to join or not join a labor union.

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, West 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.

