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January 24, 2023

To: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 121-More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake supports Senate Bill 121 and requests a favorable report from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. Senate Bill 121 will require local school systems to incentivize the pursuit of students pursuing apprenticeship programs in the skilled trades. This legislation will require school systems to encourage students to pursue the skilled trades in the same way that student are encouraged to attend college. Senate Bill 121 will assist apprenticeship programs and employers in recruiting new apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Its 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](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

