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To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 838 – Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage-Violations-Penalties and Referrals

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill (SB) 838 and requests an unfavorable report.

IEC Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill 838 because the proposed penalties of a \$5,000 fine and a maximum of sixty days imprisonment for violations of the Workplace Fraud Act or the Maryland Prevailing Wage Law Bill 895 are excessive. Contractors face many challenges in running their businesses. A \$5,000 fine and possible imprisonment for the violations in Senate Bill 838 seem disproportionately high.

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.

