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February 28, 2024

To: Members of House Appropriations Committee
Members of House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill (HB) 694 **(with Amendment)** – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents more than 200 electrical and low voltage businesses who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has approximately 1,000 electrical apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake seeks a **clarifying amendment** about whether it will be able to participate in the ENOUGH Grant Program. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship program throughout Maryland in the electrical industry. IEC Chesapeake currently has approximately 1,000 apprentices. These apprentices develop skills as low voltage workers and electricians and secure high paying jobs in an essential job sector.

[Proposed Amendment Language to HB 694:](#)

[On Page 3, Line 20 strike Organization and replace it with EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS.](#)

IEC Chesapeake wants to participate in the ENOUGH programs' elements of job training and workforce development. Lines 16-17 on Page 4, the legislation states the purpose of ENOUGH grants is to 'Connect Residents to Quality Jobs and In-Demand Occupations.' The electrical industry certainly meets that criteria. IEC Chesapeake seeks the above clarifying amendment.

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.





PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO HB 694

BY: Independent Electrical Contractors Chesapeake
(To be offered in the House Appropriations Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 694
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT #1

On Page 3, Line 20 strike Organization and replace it with EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS.

