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

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Letter of Information for Senate Bill (HB) 783 – Renewable Energy – Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems (Brighter Tomorrow Act)

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 would like to provide the Committees with informational comments opposing the required use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) in SB 783. The required use of PLAs creates a disadvantage for merit shop contractors in Maryland. More than eighty percent (80%) of construction in Maryland is performed by non-union contractors. It is unwise public policy to put merit shop contractors at a competitive disadvantage on construction projects in Maryland. Most certified MBE contractors are non-union.

In addition, the mandated requirement of PLAs may significantly drive up the costs of projects at time when the state is facing significant budgetary challenges. We respectfully ask that the Committees eliminate the requirements for the use of PLAs.

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](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto: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.

