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February 27, 2024

To: Members of House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill (HB) 994 – State Finance and Procurement - Retention Proceeds

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 supports House Bill (HB) 994 and requests a favorable report. IEC Chesapeake supports HB 994 which would require a unit of government or contractor to pay undisputed retention proceeds within 90 days after the substantial completion of a project. This legislation would benefit contractors with their cash flow by making monies owed to them available within 90 days.

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 <u>gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com</u> or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at <u>kevin@kokeeffelaw.com</u>.

<u>About Us</u>

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.

