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February 27, 2024

To: Members of House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Member of House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose House Bill (HB) 1276 – Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements  
(Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization 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 is a strong supporter of increasing apprenticeship opportunities in Maryland. IEC Chesapeake currently has approximately 1,000 electrical apprentices in the electrical industry. IEC Chesapeake understands it is the intent of the sponsor of HB 1276 to increase apprenticeship opportunities in Maryland. Nonetheless, IEC Chesapeake opposes HB 1276 in its current form for the following reasons.

- On Page 8, Lines 7-8, we believe that the applicable percentage of 25% beginning January 1, 2025 may be unrealistic.
- On Page 10, Lines 28-31, we believe the requirement of at least 90 calendar days before the date the contractor or subcontract expects to use apprentice labor may be too short.
- On Page 11, Lines 30-33, we believe that it is unnecessary for a contractor or subcontractor to be required to submit a monthly report to the Department of Labor since the information is already provided through a certified payroll report to the Department of Labor.
- On Page 13, Lines 1-2, we believe that a three year ban on public works projects is excessive.

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@kokeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeffelaw.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.

