

February 26, 2025

To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Letter of Information for House Bill (HB) 1170 - Maryland Home Improvement Commission - Residential Solar Power System Installation - Contractor License Required**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents approximately 200 electrical contractors who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has nearly 1,000 electrical apprentices. IEC Chesapeake offers this letter of information for the Committee's consideration.

IEC Chesapeake supports the effort to require a Home Improvement Contractor License for the installation of solar power systems in residential locations. IEC Chesapeake believes that it is also important to have licensed electricians installing solar power systems in residential locations. Requiring licensed electricians to perform solar installations in residential locations is good public policy for safety reasons as well as to insure quality work.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 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.