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February 12, 2026

To: Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Oppose House Bill (HB) 516 – Maryland Department of Labor - Investigation of Complaints - Requirements (Worksite Enforcement Act of 2026)**

IEC Chesapeake membership includes 150 contractors and 70 business partners. IEC Chesapeake members represent approximately 9,000 employees. In addition, it has approximately 1300 electrical apprentices. IEC Chesapeake opposes HB516 the Department of Labor has adequate tools to investigate worksite allegations of labor violations.

Running a construction business today is complicated and challenging. It is not necessary to create another investigatory scheme for which contractors have to respond. Dealing with the lingering effects of high inflation and attracting skilled workers makes this an especially challenging time to operate a business in Maryland.

For the above reasons, IEC Chesapeake is requesting an unfavorable report. 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@iecchesapeake.com](mailto:gshmelzer@iecchesapeake.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.