

March 5, 2026

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

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Oppose House Bill (HB) 1539 – Maryland Labor Relations Act**

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 HB1539 which creates a Maryland Labor Relations Act and a five member Maryland Labor Relations Board. The provisions of HB1539 are contingent upon the National Labor Relations Act being fully repealed, rendered null and void, or the federal National Labor Relations Board ceding jurisdiction to the state on certain labor disputes. Issues regarding collective bargaining, union organizing, and labor disputes should remain under the purview of the National Labor Relations Act and National Labor Relations Board. It is unnecessary at this time to create a Maryland Labor Relations Act and Maryland Labor Relations Board. Although HB1539 has a contingency enactment, there will be unnecessary confusion if the bill were to be enacted since labor relations are currently under federal jurisdiction.

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 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.