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To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill 163 – Labor and Employment – Labor Organizations – Right to Work

IEC Chesapeake supports House Bill 163 and requests a favorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee. IEC Chesapeake believes that workers should not be required to be members of a labor union as a condition of employment. IEC Chesapeake represents merit shop electrical contractors who operate without unions. We believe that workers should be given the opportunity to decline joining a labor union or paying union dues. It is important to note that Right to Work laws do not require or prohibit labor unions. Individual workers are given the choice to join or not join a labor union.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, 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.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 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@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

