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To: Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
and Senate Budget and Taxation Committees
From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake
Re: Oppose Senate Bill 16 – Business Occupations and Professions-Master
Electricians Guaranty Fund-Establishment

IEC Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill 16 because it imposes a fee of at least \$100 and up to \$150 dollars on each licensed master electrician. Although we appreciate the sponsor's efforts to address bad actors among master electricians by setting up a fund to compensate victims of substandard electrical work, this legislation may not solve the problem because unscrupulous electrical contractors may not be licensed. In addition, it is important to note that licensed master electricians must pay state and local licensing fees. The proposed \$100 to \$150 fee to create the Master Electricians Guaranty Fund creates an additional burdensome fee on master electricians in Maryland. IEC Chesapeake supports the effort to create a statewide journeyman electrician license. Creating this new license will result in efficiency for electrical contractors and provide more protection for consumers.

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 or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

