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To: Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support for Senate Bill 133 – Education-High School Students-Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training

IEC Chesapeake supports SB133 which authorizes county Boards of Education to award credit toward a high school diploma or a post-secondary credential for one vocational course per semester in a career and technical education program. IEC Chesapeake has a significant apprenticeship training program for electricians. The skilled trades, including the electrical industry, are facing workforce shortages. IEC Chesapeake supports efforts to attract new students to skilled training programs in high school. SB133 has the potential to increase enrollment in vocational training programs.

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.

Thanks 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.

