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February 14, 2020

To: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill 220 – Income Tax Credit-Employment of Apprentices-Extension

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IEC Chesapeake supports House Bill (HB) 220 and requests a favorable report. HB220 would extend the existing state income tax credit for the hiring of eligible apprentices through June 30, 2025. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive statewide apprenticeship training program for the electrical industry. Registered apprenticeships provide a valuable employment opportunity to thousands of Marylanders.

The “earn and learn” approach of both instruction and on-the-job training is the best approach to developing a skilled workforce. Since the enactment of the income tax credit for the employment of eligible apprentices in 2017, IEC Chesapeake’s apprenticeship annual enrollment has increased from 652 to 745 and finally to today’s current total of 820 apprentices.

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](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

