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To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose House Bill 1326 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave

IEC Chesapeake opposes House Bill (HB) 1326 and asks for an unfavorable report. IEC Chesapeake is joining with many of its business partners to request a pause on imposing additional financial and administrative burdens on businesses who have endured additional costs as a result of COVID-19. The construction industry, including electrical contractors, has had to expend additional money for personal protective equipment (PPE), which was not accounted for in their budgets.

In addition, it has been a continuous challenge to maintain a workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic. IEC Chesapeake's members want their employees to be safe and healthy during this challenging time. Expanding the eligibility of utilizing paid sick leave could result in the unintended consequence of harming businesses, many of which have been fragile for the past year.

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 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

