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To: Members of House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose House Bill (HB) 650 – Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Standards - Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents more than 200 electrical and low voltage businesses who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has more than 1,000 electrical apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake opposes HB 650 which establishes 28 new apprentice occupations which would have a ratio of 3 apprentices to one journeyperson. The policy of establishing occupations with apprentices and a corresponding ratio of 3 apprentices to one journeyperson should be left to the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC). MATC is a twelve member body with 5 members representing employee organizations and 5 members representing employers. In addition, two members of MATC are chosen from the general public. MATC formulates apprenticeship policies and determines which skilled trades should have apprentices. MATC also adopts standards that safeguard the welfare of all apprentices. Determining which professions should have apprentices should remain with MATC and not be determined by the Maryland General Assembly. MATC has the experience and expertise to best establish apprenticeship policy in Maryland.

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.

About Us

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

