

## NEWS RELEASE

### International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®

AFL-CIO-CLC

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For immediate release:  
April 8, 2006

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### **IBEW AND MARYLAND AFL-CIO URGE ASSEMBLY TO OVERRIDE GOVERNOR'S VETO OF SB 1102**

(Washington, DC) -- The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the Maryland and D.C. AFL-CIO criticized Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich's 11<sup>th</sup> hour veto on April 7 of SB 1102 and strongly urged the General Assembly to override the veto and enact the bill into law.

SB 1102, which initially passed the General Assembly on March 31, purges the current Public Service Commission, which regulates public utilities in the state. The legislation creates a process whereby a more independent body is established with two members being appointed by the Senate, two by the House of Delegates, and one by the Governor. Currently only the Governor has the authority to appoint the five commissioners. "SB 1102 will provide for a truly independent Public Service Commission in the State of Maryland. The interests of public utility commissioners should not be tied to the executives of the industry they regulate, and it is clear that, as currently constituted, the PSC has failed in its primary responsibilities," said Jim Hunter, director of the IBEW's Utility Department.

Fred Mason, president of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO, said this bill is in the public interest and that the Assembly deserves a voice in the appointment process. "It is critical to have a state regulatory agency that fights for the interests of Maryland's working families," he said. "We urge the General Assembly to override the governor's irresponsible veto."

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