October 4, 2017

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), I want to urge your swift approval of Peter Robb as the next general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and urge you to quickly fill the vacancy that will occur when NLRB Chairman Phil Miscimarra’s term ends on December 16, 2017.

Based in Alexandria, Virginia, the Independent Electrical Contractors is an association of over 50 affiliates and training centers, representing over 2,300 electrical and systems contractors nationwide. IEC’s membership consists of primarily of small businesses, with the average contractor member having around 30 employees, 20 of which are electricians. IEC’s purpose is to establish a competitive environment for the merit shop—a philosophy that promotes free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all. IEC and its training centers conduct apprenticeship training programs under standards approved by the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship. Collectively, in the 2017 school year, IEC will train more than 10,000 electrical apprentices.

Reports have indicated that John Ring, a partner with Morgan Lewis, is the frontrunner for Mr. Miscimarra’s position. Mr. Ring, who has served in various leadership positions in his firm and has decades of experience practicing labor law, is an excellent candidate and would have IEC’s full support as a nominee for NLRB chair.

Regardless of who the Trump administration nominates, IEC requests that you move forward with that nomination as quickly as possible. Once Chairman Miscimarra’s term ends, the NLRB will be left with 2 Democrat members and 2 Republican members. Without a third Republican member to break the tie, the Board is unlikely to revisit the many Obama-era decisions it issue, which have caused disruption and uncertainty in labor relations at the expense of entrepreneurs, small businesses, workers and job growth.

Thank you for your swift consideration of Mr. Robb, and we encourage you to move forward quickly with a replacement for Chairman Miscimarra, be it with Mr. Ring, or another equally qualified candidate.

Sincerely,

Jason E. Todd
Vice President
Independent Electrical Contractors