

# Maryland Fire Marshals Committee

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February 3, 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chairman  
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB0153 Public Safety – Maryland Building Performance Standards

Dear Delegate Barve and Delegate Stein,

The Maryland Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee is made up of representatives from fire marshal offices from across the State. We work in collaboration with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office to advocate for strong and effective fire prevention and life safety measures to protect the citizens of the State of Maryland.

We are writing you today to respectfully submit our opposition to HB0153 Public Safety – Maryland Building Performance Standards. Timely State and local adoption of the most recent editions of the ICC International Building Code and the NFPA Fire and Life Safety Codes is critical to ensuring safety in the facilities of both existing and emerging industries. Expediently adopting the newest editions of these codes provides building officials and inspectors with tools and guidelines to address burgeoning new businesses such as marijuana processing, food trucks and energy storage facilities that are not addressed in previous editions of the codes. Further delay in the adoption process will lead to confusion for designers and buildings and potentially delay the approval and construction of development projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we respectfully ask the Environment and Transportation Committee for an unfavorable report for HB0153.

Sincerely,



James V. Reilly  
Chairman  
Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee