



**HAGERSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**CITY OF HAGERSTOWN**  
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**Douglas P. DeHaven**  
Fire Marshal

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February 22, 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Barve,

On behalf of the Hagerstown Fire Marshal Office, I would like to record our support to proposed **HB0823: State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler System Enforcement**. Please enter this letter as part of the record prior to the February 25th committee hearing. I am unable to attend the hearing but offer the following comments.

The State Fire Marshal is the licensing agency for sprinkler system contractors, performs the fire protection system plan reviews, fire protection system inspections and testing and enforcement of all fire protection system work except for what falls under the residential building code. This change will unify the State Fire Marshal as the State agency responsible for requirements of all fire protection systems in commercial and residential dwellings uniformly throughout the State.

Fire Departments across Maryland depend upon the most current codes to enact the best protection possible for our citizens that are updated to deal with new building materials, height and area limitations, interior finishes, exiting and of course, sprinkler requirements.

Please fully consider the benefits of one State agency overseeing all enforcement of fire protection systems. I urge you to support the bill in the spirit of public safety.

Yours in service,

Douglas P. DeHaven  
Fire Marshal