

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



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SB256 Environment – Fire–Fighting Training – Oriented Strand Board – Prohibition

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 256: Environment – Fire–Fighting Training – Oriented Strand Board – Prohibition**

According to a 2019 study published in the International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health titled "Firefighters' and instructors' absorption of PAHs and benzene during training exercises" (Fent, Toennis, et al.), "training fires may constitute a major portion of some firefighters' occupational exposures to smokes." The study found that instructors who were carrying out 3 trainings per day had a 3.5-fold greater concentration of these carcinogens in their systems compared to the firefighters that took part in a residential fire study.

The MSFA fully supports this bill. We feel that anything that can be done to protect our firefighters and training staff should be done. During an emergency we have to do the best we can to protect ourselves given the situation. When training we can determine the risk ahead of time and should do so. The elimination of OSB is a step in the right direction to protect our firefighters and training staff.

I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you FAVORABLY support Senate Bill 256.

I will gladly answer any questions or provide further information if contacted using my contact information above