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SPEAKER PRO TEM
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Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Environment

Natural Resources,
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 503

**Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems -
Requirements and Prohibitions**

Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) is a product used to deliver propane and methane gas in homes around the country.

But this tubing is prone to malfunctions that can cause propane and methane leaks to occur. In 2022, Maryland took a crucial step in improving the safety of this tubing by prohibiting the use of non-arc-resistant CSST with the passage of HB1052.

While arc-resistant CSST is a safer product, it is still vulnerable to lightning strikes. Even lightning strikes adjacent to a structure may induce the failure of CSST.

Since 2018, Maryland has experienced three fatalities (two firefighters, one civilian) because of fires caused by CSST failures caused by lightning. There have also been several dozen CSST-related fires in Maryland that did not result in death but did result in property damage.

This bill would adopt testing criteria that the National Association of State Fire Marshal's (NASFM), along with the Fire Service Membership Council (FSMC) and the International Code Council (ICC), have recommended. It's called the LC1027 testing criteria, which can withstand lightning strikes in almost all cases.

As amended, this bill requires this testing criteria in new buildings and buildings that are substantially renovated.

In response to claims that the opposition will make, a few additional points:

- We make clear that LC1027 is a testing criteria, not a standard
- The LC1027 testing criteria is not patented.
- Without a patent, there is nothing preventing Omegaflex or any other manufacturer from creating a product that meets the testing criteria
- The opposition will claim that LC1027 is a test that isn't necessary – but as you'll hear from other witnesses, the average lightning strike generates electricity that can overwhelm the tubing currently required.