



1000 Maine Avenue, SW | Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20024 | www.washingtongas.com

TESTIMONY

**WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

**HOUSE BILL 503
Environment and Transportation Committee**

Washington Gas respectfully submits this statement in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 503, *Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions* (HB 503).

Washington Gas provides safe, reliable natural gas service to more than 1.2 million customers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. We have been providing energy to residential, commercial, government, and industrial customers for more than 175 years. Washington Gas expresses our strong support for House Bill 503. This legislation addresses a critical aspect of safety within our industry by focusing on the types of corrugated stainless-steel tubing used in fuel gas piping systems in dwellings and buildings.

Though this legislation impacts building materials utilized on the customer side of the meter and is not within our jurisdiction as a utility, we support all efforts to make the entire gas system safer for our customers, and therefore we believe this delivers an enhanced level of safety and should be implemented.

House Bill 503 mandates the use of the latest coating type on corrugated gas tubing (LC1027 Standard), a development that has demonstrated its effectiveness in dissipating electrical shorts and lightning strikes. This is a significant enhancement to the safety measures associated with fuel gas systems.

The incorporation of this advanced coating technology is crucial in mitigating the risk of sparks and potential fires, offering an added layer of protection for residents and businesses. By specifying the use of tubing with proven lightning dissipation capabilities, House Bill 503 aligns with our commitment to ensuring the utmost safety for our customers and the communities we serve.

At Washington Gas, we believe that safety is paramount, and the implementation of the latest coating type on corrugated stainless steel tubing aligns with industry best practices. We believe that the proactive measures outlined in House Bill 503 will contribute to a safer environment for natural gas users in Maryland, reducing the likelihood of incidents related to electrical and lightning strikes.

We urge the committee to support House Bill 503, recognizing its potential to enhance the safety standards for fuel gas piping systems in Maryland.

Thank you for consideration of this information and I am available for any questions or additional information.

CONTACT:

Manny Geraldo, State Government Relations and Public Policy Manager
M 202.924.4511 | manuel.geraldo@washgas.com