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Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and colleagues,

I'm testifying on behalf of HB502. This bill represents a crucial step forward in our shared commitment to public safety and environmental stewardship within our great state of Maryland.

Our communities rely on the integrity of fire life safety systems to protect lives and property. Yet, the current landscape of safety inspections and maintenance for fire dampers, smoke dampers, and smoke control systems must show consistent standards and practices. This inconsistency endangers our constituents and undermines our efforts towards sustainable development and energy efficiency.

HB502 proposes a comprehensive approach to address these challenges. By requiring American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certification for professionals inspecting these critical systems, we ensure a high standard of competency and reliability. Furthermore, the bill's mandate for inspections every four years will guarantee ongoing compliance and functionality, significantly reducing the risk of catastrophic failures during emergencies.

Investing in the safety and efficiency of our buildings aligns with our broader goals of environmental protection and energy conservation. Properly maintained and inspected fire life safety systems contribute to the overall energy efficiency of buildings, reducing unnecessary air leakage and supporting our efforts to combat climate change.

HB502 is more than a regulatory measure; it is a commitment to Maryland's safety, well-being, and environmental future. I urge you to support this bill, recognizing its potential to save lives, protect property, and lead our state toward a more sustainable and secure future.

Thank you, and I ask for a favorable report on HB502.

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