

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



Legislative Committee

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SB 175: Public Safety - Fuel Gas Piping Systems and Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing - Prohibitions and Study

My name is Chief Robert Phillips, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 175: Public Safety - Fuel Gas Piping Systems and Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing - Prohibitions and Study**

The state of Maryland experienced the death of two first responders in building fires that had failures of corrugated stainless-steel tubing (CSST). The failures were attributed to high electrical discharge arcing causing a perforation of the tubing. The perforation allowed gas to escape the tubing and add fuel to the fire. In 2022 the state adopted legislation that required the use of "arc resistant" CSST to provide better protection to the gas system, by using better insulation available at the time. The 2022 bill did not address the sale of "non-arc resistant" CSST which is still on sale today.

This bill makes it illegal to sell CSST that is not "Non-conductive Jacketed" and provides for a penalty if doing so. The bill also provides that a study be conducted investigating the hazards of gas piping systems, and recommendations as to addressing the hazards through code and standard.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on SB175.

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully:

Robert Phillips