

David Lewis

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Delegate Dana Stein
251 House Office Building
6 Baden Street
Annapolis Md. 21401

Delegate Stein,

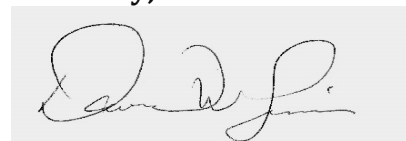
I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 823, requiring the State Fire Marshal to be the enforcing authority for Maryland's residential sprinkler requirement. I was honored to be a contingent of firefighters from across the nation that assembled in Minneapolis, MN, in 2008, to place the provisions for residential sprinkler installation in the International Residential Code (IRC) for all new one and two-family dwellings under. Soon thereafter, we carried these new provisions across the state of Maryland, encouraging all counties and municipalities to adopt these new requirements.

I was even more honored in 2012, as President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association to change the Maryland Annotated Code provisions requiring all counties and municipalities to adopt the IRC and prohibiting them from removing the requirements for residential sprinklers.

Unfortunately, several counties and municipalities across Maryland have chosen to ignore these requirements in violation of the Maryland law. They have been misinformed by special interest groups that claim that residential sprinklers will significantly increase housing costs. We have provided validated data that demonstrate that this information is false.

Just as unfortunate, the Maryland Building Code has no enforcement authority. House Bill 823 will close that loophole by giving the State Fire Marshal the authority to enforce the building code standards that Maryland stood together in adopting. Residential sprinklers are a vital link in home fire safety and I strongly encourage you and the rest of the legislature in passing this bill to make home fire safety a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "David Lewis".

David Lewis