



The mission of the Maryland State Firemen's Association is to Serve, Promote, Advocate and Represent the interests of the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services of Maryland.

February 19, 2020

Chairman Barve

Vice Chairman Stein

### SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 823- STATE FIRE MARSHAL- SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ENFORCEMENT

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and members of the House Environment and transportation Committee,

My name is Michael R Faust and I am the current President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) and a 34-year veteran of the fire, rescue, and EMS family in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Today I'm here representing 360+ member companies and more than 30,000 volunteer members in SUPPORT of HOUSE BILL 823- State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement.

As I think you will agree fire protection and life safety are among the most important services, we provide the citizens of Maryland, members of the MSFA, and other first responders in Maryland as well as those responding from our neighboring States.

Maryland was one of the first to adopt sprinkler legislation which is an extremely important lifesaving law. Equally as important is the enforcement of the law. We need the Office of the State Fire Marshal to ensure this law is followed to protect those mentioned above.

Although I mentioned this law protects all first responders my focus, and that of the MSFA, is our State's volunteers. These members provide services to support and protect their communities while many maintain a full-time career to support their families. They

volunteer because they chose to give back to their friends and neighbors and we need to do all we can to protect them.

For these and many other reasons, we **SUPPORT** HB 823- State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to a favorable report from the Environment and Transportation Committee..

I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have. The best way to reach me is on my cell at (443) 262-6896. I will be in attendance at the hearings in both the House and Senate to show my support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Faust". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael R. Faust  
President, MSFA