

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Personnel
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House Bill 175- Public Safety–State Fire Marshal-Explosive Licenses

Good afternoon members of the House Judiciary Committee.

*My name is Johnie Roth, Jr. and I Chair the Legislative Committee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), and I am writing in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 175 Public Safety-State Fire Marshal-Explosive License.*

The MSFA is a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical technicians and 363 member companies.

The Fire and Rescue Services of Maryland work hand in hand with either their local Fire Marshal's or the Maryland State Fire Marshal's office. Many of these projects can consist of simple building construction projects involving life safety codes or even overseeing projects involving the use of explosives. We believe that last year there was a bit of confusion and inconsistencies regarding the notifications of agencies as well as the adoption of restricted times for blasting especially in residential areas.

Just as an example, the 16.2 mile Purple Line light rail project runs from the suburbs of Bethesda (in Montgomery County) eventually ending up in New Carrollton is just one of the projects recently taking place today that will run both above and below ground. The Washington Post has even reported that “fortified trucks will bring explosives daily from West Virginia because there are too many to be stored safely on site”.

For these and many other reasons that the Maryland State Firemen’s Association supports the experts in the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal and we are pleased to support this important piece of legislation before you today.

*I appreciate your time on this matter and respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on **House Bill 175**.*

Johnie F. Roth, Jr.
MSFA Legislative Chairman

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