



January 5, 2020

Maryland State Legislature  
State Capitol  
100 State Cir.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 261 - Support for statutory changes defining and regulating Battery-Charged Security Fences as an Alarm System**

Dear Assembly Delegate,

On behalf of ABF Freight, I am writing to affirm our support for statutory changes to clarify Battery-Charged Security Fences as alarm system statewide.

ABF Freight is a leading national less-than-truckload (LTL) carrier with multiple locations in the state of Maryland. Integrity, excellence and creativity are part of our core values, and we're committed to applying them in everything we do including safety guidelines. It is essential that our freight, including food supplies, medicine, medical supplies, and personal protective equipment, remain unencumbered and secure. Emergency responders, medical personnel, and the public at large are in dire need for these provisions and the timely delivery of the same.

Our procedures help us provide best-in-class service. One such procedure is the installation of Battery-Charged Security Fences at many of our facilities located in commercial, manufacturing, and industrial zones to protect our properties and ensure the delivery of critical freight throughout Maryland. It has been our experience that this perimeter security system is the most effective at preventing criminal trespass and theft from our sites. In addition, these Battery-Charged Security Fence systems are preferred given the ease of installation and operation, discreteness, and safety.

This clarity in statute is needed because the current lack of a clear regulatory structure has caused permitting to be inconsistent and inefficient, causing unreasonable delays or denials in permitting Battery-Charged Security Fences. Collaboration with local governments is also key to ensuring that the communities in which we are installed be protected and have the tools necessary to maximize public safety and deter theft. It is essential that we be able to quickly secure our facilities so that we can protect our workers, run our business effectively, and service our customers and the People of Maryland safely and efficiently.

We thank you for your consideration and respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff m Ferber".

Jeff Ferber |Manager of Security-Field Operations| ABF Freight® – An ArcBest® Company |  
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