

January 13, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chairman
Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB0345 – Public Utilities – Gas Service Regulator Safety (Flower Branch Act)

Dear Delegate Davis and Delegate Dumais,

The Maryland Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee is made up of representatives from fire marshal offices from across the State of Maryland. We work in collaboration with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office to advocate for strong and effective fire prevention and life safety measures to protect the citizens of the State of Maryland.

We are writing you today to submit our strong support for HB0345. We agree with the testimony provided last year for then HB0408 by the Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci and believe that the proposed legislation requiring gas service regulators to be installed on the outside of any new building will make it safer overall for firefighters and building occupants. In addition, outside installations will allow for firefighters to have immediate access to control and or stop the supply of gas greatly reducing the risk to residents and firefighters from an explosion or fire caused by a gas leak at the regulator or meter.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we respectfully ask the Economic Matters Committee for a favorable report for HB0345.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Hayden Jr.
Chairman
Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee