

HB 1052 Public Safety- Natural Gas & Propane Pipin

Uploaded by: Barbara Matheson

Position: FAV



HB 1052 – Public Safety – Natural Gas and Liquefied Propane Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)

Testimony before

Senate Finance Committee

March 31, 2022

Position: Favorable

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of HB 1052. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

The Flynn and Laird Act is named to honor the memory of Lt. Nathan Flynn of the Howard County Fire Department and Battalion Chief Josh Laird of the Frederick County Fire Department. Lt. Flynn died July 23, 2018; Chief Laird died August 11, 2021. Both men were killed fighting house fires. Both deaths could have been prevented. The passage of HB 1052 will prevent such tragedies from reoccurring.

The use of non-arc-resistant corrugated stainless-steel piping to transport natural gas and liquefied propane becomes incendiary when struck by lightning. HB 1052 will prohibit the use of non-arc-resistant stainless-steel tubing for transport of natural gas or liquefied propane in new construction, renovations of more than 50% of existing square footage, and new piping additions to older construction. In this way, Marylanders are protected from the fate of Lt. Flynn and Chief Laird. Property is protected as well.

The use of fossil fuels in buildings is dangerous. **We respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1052.**

Barbara Matheson
Columbia, MD 20144

SenateTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Ridgely

Position: FAV

My name is Charles Ridgely, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland, currently residing in Frederick County. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the Flynn/Laird Act, House Bill 1052.

This testimony is prepared in order to provide you with a glimpse into the life and legacy of Lieutenant Nathan Flynn, the Howard County Firefighter that was killed in the Line of Duty and for whom HB 1052 is co-named. The fire that took Lieutenant Flynn's life involved non-arc resistant corrugated stainless-steel gas tubing, commonly referred to as CSST.

Nate Flynn was a resident of Havre de Grace, a man dedicated to his family and his community. He was a loving father to Alex, Gavin, Teagan, Connor, and Brecon. A loving husband to his wife, Celeste, and a dedicated public servant as a volunteer firefighter in Havre de Grace and a career firefighter in Howard County.

You didn't have to be around him for more than a few minutes to know that the only thing that Nate loved more than the fire service, was his family! He was absolutely dedicated to, and passionate about, both.

From the time that Firefighter Flynn was assigned to me until the night that he was killed, he never stopped trying to learn and give his very best. Every time that I walked into Fire Station

10, Nate was researching, learning, teaching, bettering himself and those around him in any way possible.

He constantly looked for “what went wrong” in an effort to determine what could we learn, what could we do differently, so that a life might be saved, or a tragedy averted.

On the night of July 23, 2018, Nate used every aspect of his knowledge and training in an effort to make things better for others. To save their lives, to protect their property, and ultimately trying to save his own life. But all of Nates training and efforts did not prevent that lightning induced, gas fed fire, from consuming that home and taking Nates life.

The fire that took Lieutenant Flynn’s life is not the only fire that has threatened the lives of Marylanders. Battalion Chief Josh Laird lost his life in August, 2021 in yet another fire involving CSST. This bill is named in their honor, but these are not the only fires involving CSST installed in Maryland homes.

I have served the citizens of Howard County for over 40 years. During my tenure I have served as a firefighter, a fire investigator, a fire officer, and a fire inspector. Serving in those capacities I have witnessed fires involving non-arc resistant CSST as far back as 2010. In addition, my current job duties involve the inspection of new residential construction. Despite the countless fires, and loss of life in the State of Maryland, non-arc resistant CSST continues to be installed in homes and

apartment buildings. I urge you to take action to protect Marylanders by supporting this legislation to prohibit the installation of non-arc resistant CSST. I would further recommend that consideration be given to referencing the most stringent testing and certification methods currently available such as ICC-ES-LC1027.

I have talked with Lieutenant Flynn's family and they want something positive to come from their loss. They know Nate would have wanted us to do everything we can to prevent these fires from occurring.

Nate would want us to learn, and take steps to prevent other families from suffering from the loss of their homes, their dreams, their loved ones.

In honor of Lieutenant Nathan Flynn, I would ask you to consider the safety of Maryland families and look favorably on HB 1052 the Flynn and Laird Act.

Thank you,

Charles H. Ridgely, IV

Fire Station 10 was home to the department's Special Operations Team and as such the firefighters assigned there were trained to deal with the plethora of emergencies beyond emergency medical services and fire related incidents faced by today's fire service.

HB 1052_Wallace_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Gordon Wallace

Position: FAV



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

2201 Warwick Way, Marriottsville, MD 21104
410-313-6000

LOUIS G. WINSTON, FIRE CHIEF • CALVIN BALL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelly and Brian J. Feldman
3 East, Miller State Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senators Kelly and Feldman,

I am writing on behalf of the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services, and the family of Celeste Flynn, widow of Lieutenant Nathan Flynn, in order to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 1052, the Flynn and Laird Act.

Lieutenant Nathan Flynn lost his life in the line of duty while battling a house fire in Clarksville, Maryland on July 23, 2018, and leaves behind his widow Celeste and three young children. The cause of the fire was determined by Fire Investigators to be from a lightning strike in the vicinity of the home, which subsequently resulted in a failure of the Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) gas service system in the home. The CSST line "arced" as a result of the lightning strike, causing fugitive gas to escape and ignite. The fire burned undetected in crawl space for some 30 minutes prior to the home owners being made aware and calling 911. It is not uncommon for CSST gas lines to be run in concealed spaces of a structure, therefor making the detection of a problem difficult and often delayed. While working to extinguish the fire, Lieutenant Flynn fell through the floor and into the crawl space where the fire had originated, and subsequently succumbed to his burn injuries.

Our Fire Department has documented several other incidents involving lightning strikes with the failure of the CSST lines, resulting in fire. Although these incidents did not result personal injury, the property loss in some cases were substantial. These occurrences have revealed a hidden danger for our firefighters, and all citizens of Maryland that have CSST gas service systems, and whom are we are sworn to protect.

I urge the Committee to report favorably in support of House Bill 1052, the Flynn and Laird Act, in order to ensure CSST gas piping systems are tested to highest industry standard available. In doing so, we will ensure that future installation of CSST is the safest product possible, to protect our fire service personnel and the citizens of the State of Maryland. On behalf of the fire service and the Flynn family, I appreciate your consideration of this life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

Gordon Wallace, Deputy Fire Chief
Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services
410-313-5922

HB1052_CEGardner_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Jan Gardner

Position: FAV



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

HB 1052

**Public Safety – Gas Piping
Systems – Construction
Requirements (Flynn and
Laird Act)**

County Position: FAVORABLE

Date: March 31, 2022
Committee: Finance

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for House Bill 1052 – Public Safety – Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act).

On August 11, 2021, Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services lost Battalion Chief Joshua Laird, who died as a result of injuries sustained while fighting a fire in which CSST was related to the cause. Our first-responders, particularly our firefighters, are called to very dangerous situations to protect lives and property. It is our collective duty to endeavor to protect these heroes when we are able.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Requires certain pipe and tubing in the construction of a gas piping system in all new residential or commercial buildings;
- Protects firefighters, as well as our residents, in the event of a lightning strike, from a potentially very dangerous or lethal situation; and
- Supports and demonstrates our strong commitment to our firefighters and all members of our fire service families.

Further, County Executive Gardner supports the House amendments that:

- Clarifies that non-arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) may not be used in certain systems; and
- Requires compliance for any renovation greater than fifty percent of the total square footage of a residential or commercial property, or a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system that requires the addition of a new gas line to that system.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for House Bill 1052.

HB1052_FIN_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: FAV



Career Fire Fighters Association of Frederick County, MD Inc.
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3666
Affiliated with:
Maryland State Professional Fire Fighters Association and The Central Maryland Labor Council / AFL-CIO



HB 1052
Public Safety – Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)
Senate Finance Committee
FAV
March 31, 2022

I write as the President of the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County, Maryland - Frederick County's public employee organization that represents the over 500 men and women employed with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue. We are grateful that your Committee will consider HB1052 to address the danger related to yellow CSST. The deadly combination of yellow CSST and lightning strikes are attributed to the fires that led to the Line of Duty Deaths for Nathan Flynn in Howard County and our own Josh Laird in Frederick County. HB1052 - Public Safety – Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act) was a step in the right direction and we are grateful to our sponsors, Delegate Holmes and Stein. The work on the bill in the House improved the bill and we have been made aware of a possible amendment to be offered by Delegate Holmes. We support the proffered reference to standards via this amendment:

B) WHERE CORRUGATED STAINLESS STEEL TUBING IS INSTALLED, ONLY ARC-RESISTANT JACKETED CORRUGATED STAINLESS STEEL TUBING TESTED AND LISTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICC-ES-LC1027 MAY BE USED IN:

However, we are voicing our opposition to the amendment language offered by representatives of Omega Flex that seek to preserve the status quo and their market share. This language, in effect, “guts the bill”. Importantly, this language was not even considered in the House - the House Committee did not offer these amendments. They saw the industry language for what it was - an attempt to undo our work. We are joined by our IAFF brothers and sisters in this opposition and we remain unified with the families of our lost heroes.

Public safety personnel are at the front lines of the current health crisis, constantly exposed to contagion in ways few others are. We also, however, face exposure to carcinogens and other toxic substances that lead us to have unique healthcare needs. Now, we must advocate for additional consumer protections as this dangerous material is revealed. Line of duty deaths are painful reminders of the sacrifice our members have made for the safety of Marylanders and we truly appreciate your work on this important issue.

We are proud to serve every day and in advance, thank you for resisting **industry amendments to HB1052** and passing this legislation out of your Committee. Please contact me or Katie Nash (Katie@fiastroconsulting.com/301.524.9142) with any questions.

Stephen Jones
President of Local 3666, Frederick County Career Firefighters

HB1052-FIN_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FAV



House Bill 1052

*Public Safety – Natural Gas and Liquefied Propane Piping Systems –
Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 31, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1052. This bill would update Maryland building standards to require modern, safer, materials in replaced or repaired gas lines. In addition to promoting safer buildings generally, this change will protect first responders who may enter the building during a fire or structural crisis, compromising the integrity of these systems and elevating that safety risk.

Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services firefighter Nathan “Nate” Flynn died in the line of duty in 2018 while operating at the scene of a house fire in Clarksville. Frederick County Fire Captain Joshua Laird died in the line of duty in 2021 after responding to a house fire in Ijamsville. In both cases, gas lines ruptured, which made the fires significantly more dangerous.

The vast majority of gas leaks are the result of problems with unsafe materials used in pipes that pump natural gas to residential and commercial buildings. As such, HB 1052 would require pipe that is made of nongalvanized steel with a dark iron-oxide coating on the surface or arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless-steel tubing for construction of gas piping systems in new residential and commercial buildings.

Counties believe that this bill will help to protect the health and well-being of the first responders who put their lives on the line every day to protect our shared constituents. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1052.

HB1052-Senate Hearing-Rev1.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael S. Custer, CFEI

Position: FAV

Maryland Fire Marshals Committee

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March 28, 2022

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1052– Public Safety- Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements

Dear Senator Kelley and Senator Feldman,

The Maryland Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee is made up of representatives from Fire Marshal offices 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 support for HB1052. Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing in its present form has shown to be a danger to firefighters and residents due to its propensity to leak if affected by lightning strikes. In recent years we have seen two firefighter deaths here in the state of Maryland directly attributable to CSST. We know of many other fires where this issue has occurred, sometimes with devastating damage.

The proposed bill would only apply to new construction, any renovation greater than 50% of the total square footage of the structure, or by adding a new gas line to the system. We believe requiring black iron pipe or where corrugated stainless steel tubing is installed, only Arc-Resistant Jacketed Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing, Tested and Listed in Accordance with ICC-ES-LC1027 will be installed. This requirement will assist in alleviating the dangers we currently face in our duties.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we respectfully ask the Finance Committee for a favorable report for HB1052.

Sincerely,

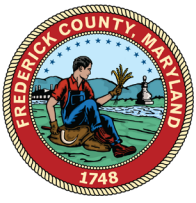
Michael S. Custer

Michael S. Custer
Acting Chairman Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee

HB1052_ChiefThomasCoe_FAV

Uploaded by: Tom Coe

Position: FAV



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Office of the Chief

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Thomas E. Coe, Chief

HB1052 – Public Safety – Natural Gas and Liquefied Propane Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)

Written Testimony from: Chief Thomas E. Coe,
Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services

Position: Favorable

Committee: Finance

Date: March 31, 2022

The dangers of non-arc resistant Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) is not common knowledge to the general public. When high levels of electricity are introduced into a structure by a direct or indirect lightning strike, the unprotected CSST commonly fails when an arc is created with other nearby metal objects. The ensuing gas-fed fire has caused millions of dollars of property loss, but more significantly, those fires have cost lives.

In Frederick County alone, we have experienced two fire fatalities within the last 4 years from lightning striking a structure that contained CSST that was not arc resistant. In 2018, a civilian died in a residential fire south of Urbana when, after lightning struck the residence, non-arc resistant CSST failed, and the occupant was trapped by the ensuing fire.

Then on August 11, 2021, this issue hit close to home when Battalion Chief Josh Laird, a 22-year veteran of our organization, died in the line of duty fighting a residential fire in a home that had been struck by lightning and experienced a failure in the CSST that was not arc-resistant.

If passed into law, House Bill 1052 will ensure that moving forward in Maryland, if Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing is used, that it be arc-resistant and jacketed.

For the safety of all Marylanders as well as our firefighters who respond to these fires, I urge a **FAVORABLE** report for House Bill 1052 with the amendments provided by the sponsor.

Finance Committee HB 1052 Public Safety Gas Piping

Uploaded by: Jeffry Guido

Position: FWA



Maryland Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Delores G. Kelley

Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Plumbers & Gas Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters

Steam Fitters

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

House Bill 1052 Public Safety Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)

Position: **Favorable with Amendment**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports HB 1052 with the amendment to include:

On Page 2, line 14, insert a new (B) and move existing language to (C):

(B) WHERE CORRUGATED STAINLESS-STEEL TUBING (CSST) IS INSTALLED, ONLY CSST WITH AN ARC-RESISTANT JACKET LISTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANSI LC-1/CSA 6.26 MAY BE USED IN:

The three Plumbing and Gas code jurisdictions in MD that provide licensing and enforcement are also in concurrence with the amendment. They are the MD State Plumbing Board; Baltimore County Plumbing Board and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. This amendment will establish a standard for the installation of the fuel gas piping materials approved for use and installed per the gas codes in these jurisdictions are safe for service for fuel gas piping in residential and commercial buildings and have passed inspection when installed and tested by a qualified and licensed Journey person (or registered Apprentice) under the direction of a licensed Master Plumber – Gasfitter.

Thank you.

We ask the committee for a favorable with amendment vote.

Respectfully,

Jeffry Guido

Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council

Value on Display... Everyday.



Value on Display... Everyday.



HB1052 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FWA

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



Robert P. Phillips

Chairman

Legislative Committee

17 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

email: rfcchief48@gmail.com

cell: 443-205-5030

Office: 410-974-2222

HB 1052: Public Safety – Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements 2 (Flynn and Laird Act)

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chairperson for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of **HB 1052: Public Safety – Gas Piping Systems – Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)**

This legislation is supported by the MSFA. There have been two Line Of Duty Deaths in Maryland where CSST was a contributing factor. We continue to see fires where lighting has caused a failure of older CSST and contributed to serious injuries, death and catastrophic damage to the structures involved. This bill will create a safer environment for the public and first responders by requiring the safest type of CSST available today.

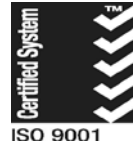
I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you **FAVORABLY** support House Bill 1052.

Thank you, and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have

Torbin-testimony to HB1052-Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Torbin

Position: FWA



Manufacturer of Flexible Metal Hose and Gas Piping Products

Written Testimony on HB 1052 – Senate Finance Committee

My name is Robert Torbin and I am the Director of Codes and Standards for Omega Flex Inc. of Exton, PA. Omega Flex is a manufacturer of corrugated stainless steel tubing products including its TracPipe CounterStrike CSST. I am also the Chair of the CSA LC-1 Technical Subcommittee which is responsible for developing and maintaining the listing standard for CSST. I am a Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts where I have been practicing engineering for 50 years. I speak in support of HB 1052 but with modifications.

CSST has been commercially sold in the United States for over 30 years with more than 1.5 billion feet installed. It is listed to the national consensus standard CSA LC-1 by three different third-party agencies included CSA Group, the ICC Evaluation Services and the IAPMO Uniform Evaluation Services. Modifications to this standard were made in 2014 that recognizes a special function jacket that is highly resistant to electrical arcing induced by lightning strikes. The inclusion of this arc-resistant jacket as part of the listed CSST system is optional, and some CSST manufacturers do not offer this feature.

The proposed and amended verbiage in the bill describing the permissible type of CSST is confusing and easily misconstrued by a knowledgeable installer. All CSST jackets (both the standard yellow and the newer black jackets) have some level of arc resistance. All CSST can be made more resilient against electrical arcing by simply bonding the tubing to the electrical grounding system. It is, therefore, important that the language in House Bill 1052 accurately reflects the intent of the author and the standard to avoid any misunderstanding or confusion within the installer and inspection communities.

I respectfully offer the following revisions and modifications for your review and acceptance:

On Page 2, line 14, insert a new (B) and move existing language to (C):

(B) WHERE CORRUGATED STAINLESS-STEEL TUBING (CSST) IS INSTALLED, ONLY CSST WITH AN ARC-RESISTANT JACKET LISTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANSI LC-1/CSA 6.26 MAY BE USED IN:

The suggested amendment will ensure that CSST used going forward will meet or exceed accepted industry standards for arc-resistance as set by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) and the CSA Group (Canadian Standards Association). The amendment will clarify the language in the House passed bill that references non-arc resistant CSST without defining the term. As written, the House bill would require the installer and the local Authority having jurisdiction to determine what is sufficient arc resistance. Section 5.16 of LC-1 provides the test and acceptance criteria for arc resistant CSST.

Omega Flex supports HB1052 with the adoption of the suggested amendment.

OMEGAFLEX, INC., 451 Creamery Way, Exton, PA 19341-2509

Voice: 800-355-1039 or 610-524-7272 Fax: 610-524-8983 URL: www.omegaflex.com

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