



## **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.**

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