

Maryland Fire Marshals Committee

Thomas Hayden, Chairperson
(240) 676-4814
THayden@bwiairport.com

Michael Custer, Vice Chairperson
(202) 425-1317
Michael.s.custer.civ@mail.mil

Roberta Kelly, Secretary
(410) 313-6040
rkelly@howardcountymd.gov

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