

February 17, 2023

SB614 – Public Safety – Fire Dampers, Smoke Dampers, Combination Fire Smoke Dampers, and Smoke Control Systems

Chairman Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SB614.

I am in support of this bill.

My name is Geoff Parks and I've been in the sheet metal HVAC industry for over 25 years.

As a Maryland HVAC contractor that employs certified Fire and Smoke Damper Technicians, we've performed damper acceptance and inspection testing on many buildings throughout the region. We can attest first hand to the pervasive issues with Fire Life Safety dampers as documented in the 2021 University of Maryland reliability study.

On too many occasions to count, dampers have been installed incorrectly, had no or limited access, broken fusible links, debris blocking damper blade function, broken damper shafts, inoperable actuators, and the list goes on. Resulting in the need to repair or replace the dampers completely.

Passing SB614 will make Maryland buildings safer for its occupants and help to prevent future tragedies and possible loss of life.

Sincerely,

Geoff Parks

SMACNA / SMART Local #100

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