



W.E. Bowers, Inc.
Mechanical Construction,
Plumbing and HVAC Service

12401 Kiln Court • Suite A
Beltsville, MD 20705
301 • 419 • 2488
Construction Fax: 301 • 419 • 2711
Service Fax: 301 • 419 • 2310

Senator Feldman and Senate Committee Members
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
The Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

SB-614 Public Safety – Fire Dampers, Smoke Dampers, Combination Fire Smoke Dampers and
Smoke Control Systems

My name is Timothy Aley a Vice President at W.E. Bowers, Inc. and member of SMART local
100.

During my 30+ years in the sheet metal industry I have seen the incorrect installation of Fire,
Fire/Smoke and Smoke dampers. An incorrect installation is not limited to the installing
contractor/technician installing the device correctly but making sure a follow on trade did not
install a portion of their work to hamper the operation of these devices. Some examples I have seen
are dampers installed upside down, screws installed through damper sleeves rendering the damper
nonoperational, dampers installed outside of the fire barrier they are designed to protect. I have also
seen dampers propped open by an end user because the diffusible link has broken, and incorrect
diffusible links installed.

These devices are only effective in creating a safe building when installed correctly, a correct
install can only be confirmed with an adequate inspection. Inspection needs to be performed on a
regular basis because some of these devices see operation daily and as we all know moving parts
tend to break.

I ask that you please support SB-614 with a favorable vote.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy Aley".

Timothy Aley
Vice President
W.E. Bowers Inc
12401 Kiln Court Suite A
Beltsville, MD 20705