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Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chair Barve, & Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB769, which establishes requirements for the installation, inspection, and testing of fire dampers, smoke dampers, combination fire smoke dampers, and smoke control systems in commercial, industrial, and public buildings in Maryland.

As we all know, fire safety is of utmost importance in any building. While many fire safety components such as sprinkler systems and fire alarms are routinely inspected and tested, other critical components such as fire dampers, smoke dampers, and smoke control systems are not currently subject to clear inspection and testing requirements. This poses a significant risk to the safety of occupants and first responders in the event of a fire or smoke event.

The proposed legislation in HB769 would bring Maryland in line with the National Fire Protection Association standards that are already part of the Maryland Fire Prevention Code. The bill ensures that qualified technicians perform the required work, certified by an internationally recognized accreditation, and that the testing and inspections are done in accordance with the applicable codes, adopted standards, and manufacturer's instructions. This provides assurance to state and municipal inspectors that the life safety testing and inspections have been performed to the highest standards.

It is worth noting that many other states and municipalities have already adopted similar legislation or ordinances, including New Mexico, Washington State, Nevada, Illinois, and Delaware. This year, similar bills are being introduced in Alaska, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Oregon.

In summary, I urge the Committee to strongly support HB769, which would significantly enhance fire safety in commercial, industrial, and public buildings in Maryland. The bill ensures that critical fire safety components are regularly inspected and tested to the highest standards, providing peace of mind to occupants and first responders alike, I urge this committees favorable support, and I'm glad to have Mr. Killeen, & others here today to speak on this important matter.

