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The Honorable Chairman Kumar Barve and
Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

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RE: SUPPORT HB769

As Legislative Director in Maryland for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART) we urge your committee to **support HB769**, "Public Safety - Fire Dampers, Smoke Dampers, Combination Fire Smoke Dampers, and Smoke Control Systems"

In my position I am responsible for looking out for the safety of the members I represent. In that respect I look at everything through this lens.

HB769 is a public safety issue in that it requires the proper inspection of Fire Dampers, Smoke Fire Dampers, and Smoke control systems.

The failure of these devices to operate correctly when a building fire occurs just intensifies a very serious unsafe situation to the occupants trying to exit and the firefighters trying to enter to assess and address the condition.

When building fires occur there are most likely injuries or even deaths. In these situations, time is always of the essence. To have the problem exacerbated by these devices not working properly only increases this likelihood.

The solution is to have the properly trained personnel inspecting these systems and requiring the proper maintenance when faulty systems are discovered. Exactly what SB614 requires.

We urge a favorable report for HB769!

Sincerely

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division