



**International Association of Sheet Metal, Air,  
Rail & Transportation Workers,  
Local Union 100— Sheet Metal Division**  
*Affiliated with AFL-CIO*

**Richard D. LaBille, III**  
Business Manager/President  
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Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Senator,

SMART Local 100 thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB 614. We would like to offer additional insight regarding the February 21 DGS letter.

**The DGS Initial Inspection Cost Estimate is grossly overstated.** We calculate a cost of \$1.7 million for the initial inspection, approximately 27¢ per Marylander.

Cost to inspect DGS buildings under SB614			
MD retail/industrial/office space square footage	293,000,000		1
MD DGS space square footage	26,000,000		
MD dampers	150,000		2
MD space supported by DGS (%)	8.87%		
MD dampers supported by DGS	13,300		
Contractor cost per hour to test/make minor repair	\$125		
<b>Total Cost to MD for Initial Inspection</b>	<b>\$1,662,500</b>		
<sup>1</sup> Source: Office.NET			
<sup>2</sup> Source: NEMIC			

The Maryland State Fire code already calls for all FLS dampers to be tested every four years (or six for hospitals) so there should be no fiscal cost to the State of Maryland that isn't already required by the existing code.

**Safety** - DGS concedes Maryland's fire codes are not being followed, introducing a high level of risk to building occupants.

According to Tom Skinner, Vice President of the Maryland Professional Fire Fighters Association, most people killed in fires die from smoke inhalation. Functioning FLS dampers stop the flow of life-threatening smoke, thus saving lives.

Fire sprinklers are not designed to save lives, they are designed to save property. They are not a substitute for inspected, functioning FLS dampers.

Finally, the fiscal concerns brought up by the State Fire Marshall should be eliminated with the proposed amendments that have been brought forward. The primary issues, as we understand them, would have been around having to perform inspections, verify their completion, and approve any damper designs for installation. These have been either eliminated or determined to be unnecessary.

Respectfully,

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