



**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
Russell K. Robinson
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 MABE letter.

According to Tom Skinner, Vice President of the Maryland Professional Fire Fighters Association, most people killed in fires die from smoke inhalation. Properly functioning FLS dampers stop the flow of life-threatening smoke; and properly functioning FLS smoke control systems exhaust smoke from designated areas in building, each creating safe havens for students to exit burning buildings, thus saving lives. As Mr. Skinner noted, fire sprinklers are not designed to save lives, they are designed to save property. They are not a substitute for inspected, functioning FLS dampers or smoke control systems.

School fire drills are conducted to help ensure that, in the event of a fire, students will know how to exit a building calmly and without panic. This is necessary because human beings can be unpredictable. The presence of a reliable, unperturbable, ANSI-inspected, functioning damper performing its job will reduce the presence of smoke and thus, of smoke inhalation deaths in the event of a fire. Similar to fire drills, the presence of a damper helps ensure that students will be able to successfully exit a burning building.

Data from Dr. James Milke's study show that even buildings constructed within the last year were found to have non-functioning dampers, thus endangering the occupants in the event of a fire.

In today's dangerous world, with its many challenges and hazards, isn't it best to address the things we can, even as we must accept there is so much that we can't do to keep our children safe?

Thomas Killeen
Business Representative and
Legislative Director
SMART Local 100
4725 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD. 20746
Cell 443.784.9718