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HB769 – Public Safety – Fire Dampers, Smoke Dampers, Combination Fire Smoke Dampers, and Smoke Control Systems

Chair Barve and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB769.

I am in support of this bill.

My name is Geoff Parks and I work for CMC Sheet Metal, a local union contractor. I've been in the sheet metal HVAC industry for over 25 years.

As a Maryland HVAC contractor that employs certified Fire and Smoke Damper Technicians, we've performed damper acceptance and inspection testing on many buildings throughout the region. We can attest firsthand to the pervasive issues with Fire Life Safety dampers as documented in the 2021 University of Maryland reliability study.

On many occasions, dampers have been installed incorrectly, had no or limited access, broken fusible links, debris blocking damper blade function, broken damper shafts, inoperable actuators, and the list goes on. Resulting in the need to repair or replace the dampers completely.

As previously stated, I am in full support of this bill and ask for a favorable report.

Passing HB769 will make Maryland buildings safer for its occupants and help to prevent future tragedies and possible loss of life.

Sincerely,

Geoff Parks – CMC Sheet Metal

SMACNA / SMART Local #100

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