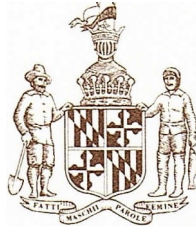


TERRI L. HILL, M.D.
Legislative District 12A
Howard County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees
Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 404
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-3378 · 301-858-3378
800-492-7122 Ext. 3378
Fax 410-841-3197 · 301-858-3197

Terri.Hill@house.state.md

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 21, 2023

SUPPORT
HB470 -Environment – Fire-Fighting Training – Oriented Strand Board -
Prohibition

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice-chair Rosenberg, and Committee Members,

HB470 prohibits the burning of oriented strand board (OSB) during firefighting training exercises to limit firefighter's exposure to chemicals and materials harmful to their health. The prohibition is limited to use in fire-fighting training exercises and does not impact the manufacturing, sale, use, or burning of strand board otherwise.

That cancer is the leading cause of death for firefighters is, in part, due to the extensive exposure to smoke and to the variety of carcinogens and other chemicals absorbed through the skin or inhaled during combustion of synthetic and manufactured building material, furniture, and textiles. Because they are subject to large accumulative exposure to toxins and carcinogens, optimizing the health of firefighters, and minimize the negative health impacts of the job, necessitates we continually look to minimize their career-long exposure where we can. While we cannot control exposures during active fires, we can take actions to reduce risks during training exercises.

Oriented strand board in a multiple layer material intended for use as a covering in roofs, subfloors, and walls. The adhesives used to join the layers contain poly-methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (PMDI) and releases carcinogens on combustion.

Last year, after addressing opposition concerns and reaching stakeholder consensus, this committee, and the House, gave unanimous support for this legislation. The Senate fell short.

HB470 is in the same posture as the bill that passed the House in 2022. I am asking you to support its passage in 2023, to help protect their lives as they dedicate their lives to protecting ours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".