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BILL NO.: **SB 788**

TITLE: **Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant
Program and Fund**

SPONSOR: **Senator McKay**

COMMITTEE: **Budget and Taxation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 21, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 788 – Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund. This legislation would provide grants to the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute to train local fire departments on responding to incidents involving lithium-ion battery storage systems.

The widespread use of solar energy and lithium-ion battery vehicles, devices, and energy storage systems has resulted in monumental challenges for the fire service worldwide. Fires and emergencies involving these systems have increased at an alarming rate, resulting in fatalities and millions of dollars in property damage in the United States. The Baltimore County Fire Department has experienced an increase in the installation of these systems and thus fires involving these systems. The training and emergency response standards offered by SB 788 would enhance the Baltimore County’s ability to maintain the safety of responders and effectively mitigate these incidents.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 788 from the Senate Budget and Taxation committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.