

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



**Robert P. Phillips**

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## **SB788: Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund**

My name is Robert Phillips, I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA). The MSFA represents the 25,000 plus volunteer Fire/EMS and Rescue first responders across the state.

I wish to present testimony in favor of Senate Bill 788: Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund

The MSFA supports the adoption of this bill. We have seen first hand the effects of Lithium-ion battery fires due to charging and storage issues. The Lithium-ion battery is not a new concept or device, they have been with us for about 30 years now. The issue now is the everyday use beyond the small rechargeable device. Today manufacturers combine many hundreds or thousands of these batteries into a bigger battery pack which is then used to store energy from a solar array. The amount of these batteries has grown to the point that we the in the fire service can no-longer provide the fire suppression needed with present technology or resources.

This bill will fund the study of lithium-ion battery storage and develop a training program for the firefighters in this state so that we can better provide the fire suppression and protection that will be needed.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on Senate Bill 788.

I will now be glad to answer any questions, or my contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.

