



Worcester County Government
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February 26, 2024

Delegate C. T. Wilson
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
ct.wilson@house.state.md.us

Delegate Brian M. Crosby
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
brian.crosby@house.state.md.us

Dear Economic Matters Chair Delegate Wilson, Vice Chair Delegate Crosby, and members:

The Worcester County Commissioners support HB 468 Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland. There are inherent dangers with Lithium-ion battery storage facilities, which are becoming more prevalent. This needed commission will provide the recommendations necessary for the State of Maryland to implement best practices and guidelines to prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion battery fires in consumer, transportation, and utility applications.

Battery Energy Storage Systems can prove fatal due to potential explosions caused by thermal runaway, a phenomenon in which the lithium-ion cell enters an uncontrollable, self-heating state. When this occurs, toxic chemicals are released into the air that are extremely hazardous to first responders and any other people and animals within the plume area. In addition, the runoff that occurs from attempting to extinguish these systems is also littered with toxic chemicals that are detrimental to the environment, and ultimately state waterways.

Because of these hazards, it is imperative that Maryland establish a commission made up of professionals who understand these hazards and can provide the recommendations necessary to assure public safety. We thank you for considering our concerns and urge you to support HB 468.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Bertino, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President

cc: Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman
Delegate Charles Otto