



House Bill 468

Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland

Position: **FAV**

Date: **February 27, 2024**

To: **Economic Matters**

The Caroline County Commissioners **SUPPORT** HB 468. This bill aims to establish a Commission dedicated to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland. The Commissioners have a strong partnership with their local volunteer fire companies, and remain passionate about establishing safety regulations, regarding lithium-ion battery technology.

House Bill 468 outlines the creation of a diverse and comprehensive Commission consisting of representatives from various state agencies, industry stakeholders, emergency response organizations, and citizen advocates. By bringing together experts with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, the Commission will be well-equipped to study and make recommendations on a wide range of issues related to lithium-ion battery safety.

The objectives outlined in the bill, including the development of best practices and guidelines to prevent and suppress lithium-ion battery fires, the exploration of extended producer responsibility mechanisms, and the promotion of public education and awareness, are all essential components of a comprehensive approach to battery safety.

Caroline County is home to eight volunteer fire companies. The safety of those volunteers to ensure they are there for our community during an emergency remains a top priority. By investing in proactive measures to address potential risks and promote responsible use and disposal of lithium-ion batteries, we can protect public health, safeguard our environment, and pave the way for a more sustainable future. Therefore, the Commissioners respectfully urge your committee to issue a favorable report on HB 468.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President