



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE

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Delegate Jacobs
Environment, Economic and Transportation Committee
309 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Jacobs,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), the state's comprehensive education and training facility, which annually trains 25,000 to 35,000 first responders. As Executive Director of MFRI, I am submitting my testimony in support of House Bill 1221.

With lithium-ion battery storage systems and solar arrays rapidly proliferating throughout the country, firefighters must be trained to face the unique hazards and challenges related to this emerging technology. You can't turn on the news without seeing an electric scooter, bike, hoverboard, or car catching fire and the perils that quickly ensue causing destruction, injuries, and deaths.

The grant funding provided through HB 1221, would enable MFRI to provide the imperative training needed to keep firefighters and Maryland citizens safe. For nearly 100 years, Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute has been educating and training firefighters, EMS, and rescue first responders, updating and employing new protocols to keep pace with changing technology.

I ask you and your constituents for assistance in helping to ensure that our firefighters have the necessary education and training necessary to protect life, property, and the environment in our state.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Cox, Jr., MS, CFO, EFO, NRP
Executive Director