



February 6, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: FAVORABLE

Re: SB175 – Corrugated Stainless-Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland represents more than 10,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel who proudly serve the citizens of the State of Maryland.

We strongly support the enhancement of requirements and prohibitions for corrugated stainless-steel tubing (CSST) for fuel gas piping systems. The current standards for CSST are outdated and in need of revisions. These outdated standards have allowed substandard CSST to be installed that were contributing factors in two fire fighter line of duty deaths: Nathan Flynn in Howard County and Josh Laird in Frederick County.

The following link provides more information on the lessons learned from both fires that were caused by lightning-induced arc failure of corrugated stainless-steel tubing (CSST).

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/atf-investigation-report-on-lessons-learned-from-2-lodd/>

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we strongly encourage a favorable report on Senate Bill 175.

Submitted respectfully,

Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 25 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort George G. Meade, National Capital Federal Fire Fighters

State: Baltimore / Washington International Airport

Local: Annapolis City, Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland City, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, Talbot County, Worchester County