

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG  
Legislative District 3  
Frederick County

Budget and Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 302  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3575  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3575  
Karen.Young@senate.state.md.us

District Office  
253 East Church Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
301-662-8520

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan  
Education, Energy, & Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 6th, 2025

**SB0175 Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of this committee,

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) is a product that moves gas around homes and businesses throughout the country for the purposes of cooking and heating.

This tubing is easy to install but is prone to malfunctions that can cause gas leaks. When there is an electrical discharge, it can cause the gas to ignite. In 2022, we passed a bill that improved the tubing's safety by requiring that CSST sold in Maryland withstand 4.5 coulombs of electrical arcing charge. While the product sold in Maryland is now safer, it is still vulnerable to the most common source of electrical discharge, lightning strikes. Average lightning strikes are anywhere from 15-24 coulombs.

Since 2018, Maryland has experienced three fatalities –two firefighters and one civilian– because of lightning-induced failure of CSST. There have been more than thirty CSST-linked home fires in that same timeframe. What makes a CSST fire particularly dangerous is how quickly the tubing can transport the fire throughout the building, bypassing all other interior obstacles.

SB175 improves upon both the current Maryland standard and international standards by requiring CSST products sold here to be able to withstand 36 coulombs. At 36 coulombs, CSST products would be able to withstand over 90% of lightning strikes.

SB175 will save lives and protect homes. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Karen Lewis Young