

HB0222_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

01/28/2025

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0222 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems -
Requirements and Prohibitions

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/0222, Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions

This bill is a priority for the County Executive and County Council of Frederick County.

Frederick County Battalion Chief Joshua Laird, 46, died Aug. 11, 2021, from injuries he sustained battling a two-alarm house fire on Ball Road in Ijamsville, Maryland; a fire in which a lightning strike induced failure of a CSST. The Chief's widow, Sara Laird, testified in favor of the bill last year but it failed to advance out of the committee.

CSST has been shown to malfunction and caused, in 2016, the International Code Council, in partnership with the Fire Service Membership Council and the National Association of State Fire Marshals to unanimously endorse ICC LC1027. This LC1027 standard is considered to be a way to meaningfully improve safety in preventing these CSST failures. This bill, as drafted for 2025, considers and reflects feedback from the 2024 legislative session but maintains the focus on increasing the safe standards of this product. We owe it to our first responders to protect them by decreasing the fire hazards they face fighting fires in which CSST is a contributing factor. In honor of the memory of Chief Laird we should and must pass this bill this year.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0222.