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DELEGATION CHAIR

SENATOR WILLIAM G. FOLDEN
DELEGATION VICE CHAIR



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
FREDERICK COUNTY DELEGATION

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January 24, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation, Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Korman,

The Frederick County Delegation supports *HB222/SB 175 - Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions*. This legislation increases safety standards for corrugated stainless-steel tubing (CSST) and prohibits the sale, transfer, or distribution of CSST that does not meet the safety requirements.

CSST is a product used to carry gas in homes and commercial buildings and is prone to failure due to lightning strikes that can result in fires and explosions. The malfunctioning of this product was responsible for the two line of duty deaths of Frederick County Battalion Chief Josh Laird and Howard County Lieutenant Nathan Flynn. Legislation passed in 2022 prohibited the use of non-arc resistant CSST, but this standard alone is not enough to prevent malfunctions of the product.

HB 222/SB 175 would prohibit the sale, transfer, or distribution of CSST that is not capable of withstanding 36 Coulombs of electrical arcing charge. This standard will ensure that CSST is able to withstand lightning strikes without malfunction, thus protecting our first responders and residents from CSST fires. The State has a duty to ensure the materials used in our buildings are safe and resistant to malfunction that could lead to fires and explosions. Ensuring that CSST is resistant to lightning strikes is a step in the right direction. I urge a favorable report on HB222/SB175.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Del. Jesse T. Pippy.

Del. Jesse T. Pippy – Chair

Handwritten signature of Sen. William Folden.

Sen. William Folden – Vice Chair