

DANA M. STEIN
Legislative District 11B
Baltimore County

—
SPEAKER PRO TEM
—

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Environment

Natural Resources,
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 301
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3527 · 301-858-3527
800-492-7122 Ext. 3527
Dana.Stein@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 222

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

Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) is a product used to deliver propane and methane gas to homes around the country.

But this tubing is prone to malfunctions that can cause propane and methane leaks to occur. In 2022, with Del. Holmes's legislation HB 1052, we improved the tubing's safety by prohibiting the use of non-arc resistant CSST.

While arc-resistant CSST is a safer product, it is still vulnerable to lightning. Even lightning strikes adjacent to a structure may cause CSST to fail.

Since 2018, Maryland has experienced three fatalities because of CSST failures caused by lightning-induced fires. Two firefighters and one civilian died. There have also been several dozen fires that resulted in property damage.

We have amended this year's bill to remove the reference to the testing criteria LC1027. So now, the bill requires "corrugated stainless steel tubing that has been proven to withstand at least 36 coulombs of electrical arcing by an electrical arcing test." Most lightning strikes do not exceed 36 coulombs, which means that CSST under this bill would be able to withstand 80% of lightning strikes, a much higher standard than is in place today.

Also, another amendment authorizes Counties and the City of Baltimore to require a licensed installer to list the gas piping materials used in an installation and provide a material certificate that demonstrates the product has been proven to withstand at least 36 coulombs of electrical arcing charge.