

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
(410) 228-1700

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT

MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT

ROB KRAMER, JR.

WILLIAM V. NICHOLS

RICKY C. TRAVERS



JERRY JONES
COUNTY MANAGER

MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC
COUNTY ATTORNEY

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Delegate
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – HB222 Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 222 entitled “Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions” for the purpose of prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or distribution of corrugated stainless steel tubing that does not meet certain qualifications; requiring certain tubing used in the construction of fuel gas piping systems in certain buildings to meet certain qualifications; and generally relating to corrugated stainless steel tubing.

Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is commonly used to transport gas in homes and commercial buildings, but it is vulnerable to failure from lightning strikes, which can lead to fires and explosions. House Bill 222 aims to enhance safety standards for CSST by banning the sale, transfer, or distribution of CSST that does not meet these improved safety criteria. The failure of this product has been linked to the tragic deaths of Frederick County Battalion Chief Josh Laird and Howard County Lieutenant Nathan Flynn. While legislation passed in 2022 prohibited non-arc-resistant CSST, this alone does not fully address the risk of product malfunctions. This new legislation will further prohibit the sale, transfer, or distribution of CSST that cannot withstand 36 coulombs of electrical arcing. This updated standard will ensure that CSST can endure lightning strikes without failing, ultimately protecting both first responders and residents from the threat of CSST-related fires. We urge you to look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate