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The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, Room 2 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Chair Valderrama, and Honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 513 / House Bill 149 on behalf of Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, a constituent local of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (the "United Association," or "UA"). I appear in my capacity as an attorney with Manno & Associates, LLC, a government-relations and regulatory law firm engaged in public-safety, infrastructure, and workforce policy matters affecting complex construction and industrial systems.

Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 is a nationwide sprinkler fitter local representing more than 16,000 members across the United States, including journeypersons and apprentices trained through UA-affiliated apprenticeship and continuing-education programs. Its members install, inspect, test, and maintain fire sprinkler and suppression systems in a wide range of occupancies, including high-rise residential buildings, hospitals and healthcare campuses, industrial facilities, warehouses and logistics centers, and other complex structures where reliable fire-protection performance is essential.

Senate Bill 513 / House Bill 149 – Correspondence

From both a public-policy and technical standpoint, Senate Bill 513 / House Bill 149 represents a necessary modernization of Maryland’s fire-prevention and life-safety framework. The legislation properly recognizes that fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems are highly engineered life-safety systems, not ancillary building features, and that their effectiveness depends on trained, qualified personnel operating under clear and enforceable regulatory standards.

Members of Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 perform end-to-end fire sprinkler system work, including installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, and code-compliance upgrades. In practice, these systems function as a primary life-safety measure, often determining whether occupants have sufficient time to evacuate safely during an emergency.

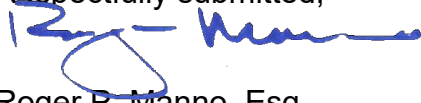
Senate Bill 513 / House Bill 149 advances public safety by clarifying statutory authority and directing the State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Prevention Commission to adopt comprehensive regulations governing assistant fire marshals, fire sprinkler contractors, and fire alarm system technicians. This standards-based approach strengthens safety outcomes while avoiding regulatory fragmentation and inconsistent credentialing practices that can undermine system reliability.

Importantly, the bill aligns life-safety policy with workforce competence. The reliability of fire sprinkler and alarm systems is inseparable from the qualifications of those who design, install, inspect, and maintain them. The legislation reinforces that principle by grounding licensure and oversight in objective professional standards, rather than uneven or ad hoc enforcement.

The legislation also reflects appropriate policy balance. Enhanced fire-protection requirements for residential high-rise buildings are tied to substantial renovations, preserving feasibility while improving occupant safety, while modernizing definitions and regulatory authority to support consistent statewide administration.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 513 / House Bill 149.

Respectfully submitted,



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