



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 553 - Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment

DATE: February 24, 2026

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) respectfully submits this letter in support of Senate Bill 553.

Senate Bill 553 reestablishes the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland with an altered membership and mandate. The bill adds representatives from the Maryland Port Administration, the ocean freight shipping industry, the property casualty insurance industry, commercial insurance industry, and representatives from the Land and Materials Administration.

The Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety was established in 2024 to study and make recommendations regarding best practices and guidelines to prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion battery fires in utility applications. The Commission additionally provided education and training to better inform the public regarding lithium-ion battery safety.

As Maryland continues to advance its electrification goals, lithium-ion batteries have become increasingly critical to the State's clean energy transition. With the growth comes a corresponding need for renewed and expanded stakeholder engagement to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

Evolving issues and challenges warranting further coordination include the safe collection, storage, and recycling of lithium-ion batteries; addressing perceived and real safety risks at the Port of Baltimore and across Maryland's roads, rails, and tunnels; and evaluating emerging third-party standards on battery technology.

Reestablishing this Commission will bring Maryland's stakeholders together to proactively examine these new and evolving questions and challenges. Doing so will help ensure that the continued usage of batteries in the clean energy transition occurs in a safe and well thought manner, using best practices, and incorporating lessons learned.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.