



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Chair Brian Feldman  
Honorable Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Maryland Senate

**RE: SB0553 – SUPPORT – Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland  
– Reestablishment**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

The Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB 0553), which is legislation supporting the reestablishment of the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland.

As a member of the Commission, and having had the privilege to serve as Chair, the Commission worked diligently to fulfill its initial mandate. It produced a thorough Final Report to the General Assembly investigating the risks associated with lithium-ion battery fires. The findings and recommendations in that report serve as a foundational starting point, identifying cross-sector risks and formalizing recommendations consistent with national best practices. This work provides an important resource to advance both public policy and public safety.

During the Commission's initial term, several areas were identified as warranting additional study. Reestablishing the Commission will allow for further examination and recommendations related to battery-initiated risks within Maryland's transportation network, impacts within insurance markets, and the incorporation of emerging best practices and federal regulations.

For these reasons, ARA respectfully requests that the Committee support the passage of SB 0553.

Respectfully submitted,

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