HB1459_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#1459- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Stationary Energy Storage Systems

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee **FROM**: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1459, **Public Safety - Stationary Energy Storage Systems**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed *Battery Energy Storage Systems: Main Considerations for Safe Installation and Incident Response* [1]

> Battery Energy Storage Systems, or BESS, help stabilize electrical grids by providing steady power flow despite fluctuations from inconsistent generation of renewable energy sources and other disruptions. While BESS technology is designed to bolster grid reliability, lithium battery fires at some installations have raised legitimate safety concerns in many communities.
>
> BESS incidents can present unique challenges for host communities and first responders: Fire Suppression, Emissions, Environmental Impact

…fires at some BESS installations have caused concern in communities considering BESS as a method to support their grids. BESS fires pose challenges to first responders due to the:

- Difficulty in putting out lithium-ion battery fires.
- Potential health impacts from emissions.
- Need to clean up and properly dispose of burned or impacted batteries.

Maryland can and should have maximum protections extended to our first responders on these types of fires and how to safely fight them.

This bill will require an owner or operator of a stationary energy storage system to pay for certain fire response training and equipment for certain local fire departments with certain fire suppression responsibilities; and requiring the State Fire Marshal to administer and enforce the Act.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1459, Public Safety - Stationary Energy Storage Systems.

[1] https://www.epa.gov/electronics-batteries-management/battery-energy-storage-systems-main-considerations-safe#:~:text=EPRI)%2C%202024.-,Facts%20about%20Recent%20Fires,at%20the%20Moss%20Landing%20site.