

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-a 501(c)(3) organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



Legislative Committee

17 State circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair: Chief Robert Phillips

Office: 410-974-2222

Cell: 443-205-5030

Email: rfcchief48@gmail.com

SB553: Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment

My name is Chief Robert Phillips, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in FAVOR of **Senate Bill 553: Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment**

The MSFA is fully in favor of this bill. The issues with Lithium-Ion (LI) batteries are just beginning and we are trying to get a good perspective as to known and unknown problems before they arise and become a bigger issue. In the fire service we have a saying that if you can predict it you can prevent it. This committee goes a long way in the right direction to collect information and look at the overall issues with the use and disposal of LI in the state. By allowing this committee to continue its investigation into guidelines to prevent, detect and suppress LI fires.

The MSFA feels that one part of the picture that is not being looked at right now is the Port of Baltimore. The port with the heavy container traffic, and moving to the use of all electric trucks in and around this area as well as the amount of LI materials being moved, we feel this be a major area of concern, and would like to see it included in the ongoing study.

The MSFA asks that you return a **Favorable** report on **SB553**.

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully

Robert Phillips

