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March 11, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1459 – *Public Safety - Stationary Energy Storage Systems*

UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in my capacity as the Legislative Chairman of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Baltimore (BOMA) to respectfully request an unfavorable report on House Bill 1465.

BOMA represents owners and managers of all types of commercial property, comprising well over 100 million square feet of office space in Baltimore and Central Maryland.

While BOMA supports effective fire response training and considers it essential to the safety and preservation of the commercial and industrial buildings that comprise our membership, we note that the training required under House Bill 1459 is identified to local fire departments. Although the bill also requires the State Fire Marshal to administer and enforce the new statute, there remains the possibility that requirements of different fire departments may result in differing compliance burdens for our members. We also note the reference in the bill to “specialized equipment for battery energy fire suppression.” It is impracticable – if not impossible – to “kill” battery power in a stationary energy storage system.

BOMA respectfully recommends that any legislation on the subject be preceded by industry discussions with the sponsors, that State Fire Marshal and other stakeholders.

For these reasons BOMA requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1459.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim O'Donald".

Tim O'Donald
Chair, BOMA Legislative Committee

cc: Bryson F. Popham, P.A.