

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel  
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



## **Legislative Committee**

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## **HB 1459: Public Safety – Stationary Energy Storage Systems**

I am Joel McCrea, Past President of the Maryland State Firefighters Association (“MSFA”) and a member of the MSFA Legislative Committee. The MSFA represents the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland.

I wish to present testimony in favor of **House Bill 1459: Public Safety – Stationary Energy Storage Systems**. This bill represents a critical step forward in ensuring the safety and preparedness of our local fire departments and the communities we serve.

### **Key Points of Support:**

#### **1. Enhanced Training and Equipment:**

- The requirement for owners or operators of stationary energy storage systems to fund specialized fire response training and specialized equipment for battery energy fire suppression is vital. It ensures that our firefighters are adequately prepared to handle emergencies involving these complex systems safely and effectively.

#### **2. Increased Safety:**

- By mandating specialized training, this bill enhances the safety of both our firefighters and the public. Proper training and equipment reduces the risk of accidents and improves response times, ultimately saving lives and property.

#### **3. State Fire Marshal Oversight:**

- The involvement of the State Fire Marshal in administering and enforcing this act provides a consistent and standardized approach to safety regulations across the state. This oversight ensures compliance and accountability, fostering a safer environment for both emergency responders and the public.

**4. Proactive Risk Management:**

- As energy storage systems become more prevalent, this legislation proactively addresses potential risks associated with their use. By equipping our fire departments with the necessary tools and knowledge, we can effectively manage these risks and protect our communities.

For the reasons state above, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 1459,

Respectfully,

*Joel McCrea*

Past President

Maryland State Firefighters Association