



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE

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March 30, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chairman
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

I am writing to communicate our position of support for House Bill 1381- Fire Fighting Training-Oriented Strand Board (OSB)-Prohibition.

As you know, there are tremendous concerns regarding various chemicals produced during live fire training in the Firefighter Training Environment. Many of these chemicals have been found to be carcinogens with health hazards to humans and animals. The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute at the University of Maryland recognized the potential problems associated with the production of hazardous/harmful chemicals in the fire training environment many years ago.

As the State's comprehensive training and education system for all EMS/Fire/Rescue programs we train on average more than 35,000 Maryland emergency responders a year. We are happy to report that this product is not used at any of our seven statewide training facilities. In fact, we have moved to a healthier and environmentally safer alternative during live fire training.

I want to thank you for continued support of the EMS/Fire/Rescue Service. I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Cox, Jr.

Michael E. Cox, Jr., MS, CFO, EFO, NRP
Executive Director

MEC/mec

CC: Mr. F. Patrick Marlatt, Deputy Director
Mr. Stephan Cox, Operations Section Chief
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