



House Bill 503

*Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems -
Requirements and Prohibitions*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

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From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 503. This bill requires that corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) meet certain requirements in order to be sold, transferred, or distributed. Promoting standards for these materials can help promote safety and avoid some of the worst dangers threatening our first responders during active structure fires.

The Public Service Commission defines CSST as “a flexible, stainless steel piping system used to supply natural gas and propane in residential, commercial, and industrial structures.” Over the years, this type of tubing has become a cornerstone of the nation’s fossil fuel infrastructure and can be found in most buildings. Recently, there have been several instances where structure fires have become more severe due to failures in the CSST tubing – including the tragic line-of-duty deaths of Frederick County firefighter Joshua Laird and Howard County firefighter Nathan Flynn.

HB 503 addresses these failures by requiring CSST to meet certain standards in the International Fuel & Gas Code and enforcing those standards by establishing a civil penalty of up to \$1000 for noncompliance.

This bill helps safeguard the health and safety of our first responders and all residents in Maryland. Counties urge the Committee to give **HB 503** a **FAVORABLE** report.