



Serving Charles County

CHARLES COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
AND
CHARLES COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.

P.O. BOX 21, LA PLATA, MARYLAND 20646



State Senator Arthur Ellis
District 28
James Senate Office Building, Room 302
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2020

Ref: House Bill 0335 / Senate Bill 0432

Senator Ellis,

The Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association respectfully wishes to **SUPPORT** House Bill 0335 and the crossover Senate Bill 0432 in its entirety. As outlined in this legislation, other counties in Maryland have this legislation in place with no issues or violations and we see a strong benefit to adding Charles County to the list the jurisdictions throughout Maryland.

Charles County agritourism farm buildings are already in the existing Public Safety law (Section 12-508), albeit uses under the law are restricted to an occupancy rate of 50 people. SB 432 and HB 335 simply seek to increase the occupancy rate to 200 people while exempting the existing structures from expensive upgrades required by the state's building standards.

We did reach out to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to ensure fire codes were to be followed and agree with them to support this legislation. Should you have any other concerns or questions, please reach out at your convenience.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Kaufmann, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Kaufmann, Jr.

Volunteer County Fire Chief
Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.
chiefire@ccvfireems.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Bowie', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Bowie
President
Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.
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Proudly Volunteering and Serving Charles County