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**Station 13**  
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**Station 14**  
Gibson Hill Road &  
Grandview Drive NW

**Station 15**  
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## Testimony in Support of HB 3798

On behalf of the Albany Fire Department, I strongly urge the passage of HB 3798, which would provide much needed training on lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery fires.

Since the emergence of electric vehicles (EVs) and other products containing Li-ion batteries, fire departments have been faced with a significant new challenge: fires involving Li-ion batteries are not easily extinguished due to the fact they react violently to water.

Of the information in the fire service community about Li-ion battery fires, no “best practice” approach has been identified at the national or local level. Some of the current information regarding responding to EV fires recommends allowing the fire to burn itself out. However, that option is often not practical or safe. First responders may face significant safety concerns when allowing the fire to continue to burn that could put people, property, or the environment at additional unnecessary risk.

Having seen the number of resources needed to manage a large-scale incident involving Li-ion battery fires, it is crucial that departments that work through automatic or mutual aid agreements operate under a standard method to ensure the safety of the responders and a level of efficiency to quickly mitigate the emergency. HB 3798 would provide that standardization.

It appears that more of these types of fires will occur as the number of EVs increase on our roadways and in our communities. It’s crucial to the safety of first responders and the community that sufficient training and standardization occurs.

Thank you,



Chris LaBelle  
Fire Chief  
Albany Fire Department