



**SB0423 – Maryland Transit Administration – Conversion to Electric Buses
(Electric Bus Transition Act)
Testimony before Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Feb 19, 2020
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Michael Loll and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **strong support of SB0423**, which prohibits the MTA from purchasing non-electric buses beginning in fiscal year 2022.

This bill would benefit the citizens of our state by reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution caused by diesel fuel combustion. The dangers of carbon dioxide induced climate change are now not just predictions, but real events happening around the world - 1. The exhaust produced by diesel burning buses is hazardous to passengers, bus drivers, and the general public - 2. Diesel exhaust, which is a mixture of gases and particulates, contains polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), chemicals that cause cancer in animal studies. Breathing the fine particulate matter in diesel and other emissions has resulted in the premature deaths of thousands of people in the United States. Besides PAH and particles, nitrogen oxides in diesel exhaust form ozone, a known respiratory irritant which exacerbates asthma. This bill would not solve all of our greenhouse gas and air pollution problems, but it is a bold step in the right direction.

We urge a favorable report.

1. IPCC, 2013: *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 1535 pp, doi:10.1017/CBO9781107415324.
2. Diesel Exhaust. OSHA. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/dieselexhaust/>. Accessed 2/17/2020
3. Diesel engines and public health. Union of Concerned Scientists. <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/diesel-engines-public-health>. Accessed 2/17/2020.