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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill- 423 – Maryland Transit Administration – Conversion to Electric Buses (Electric Bus Transition Act)

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 19th, 2020

1:00pm

Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 424 – Maryland Transit Administration – Conversion to Electric Buses (Electric Bus Transition Act)**.

This legislation will transition the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) bus fleet to 100% electric over time. In Fiscal Year 2022, it will prohibit MTA from entering into new contracts to procure non-electric buses. This would allow MTA to make necessary but gradual switch over to clean electric energy without disrupting existing contracts.

To ensure that MTA remains on schedule to implement the transition, the bill mandates that starting in 2021, MTA must submit an annual report to the legislature that must include the following:

- An evaluation of the charging infrastructure needed for MTA to maintain an all-electric fleet;
- A plan for transitioning any workers adversely effected by the transition from diesel to electric buses to similar roles commensurate with seniority, pay and benefits within MDOT MTA;
- An estimate of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that will not be emitted because of the use of electric buses each year until the transit bus fleet is converted to all-electric;
- A financial analysis of the projected cost of implementing and maintaining charging infrastructure; and
- A comparison of the projected cost of the all-electric bus fleet to the cost of continuing the legacy fleet.

Transportation emissions are the leading generator of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. Furthermore, over 80% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet federal clean air standards for ozone, due in large part to tailpipe emissions. The Electric Bus Transition Act will take hundreds of diesel buses off the road over the next several years and will reduce emissions state-wide. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 423. Thank you for your kind consideration.