

Testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
SB 734 - Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act Position: Favorable

24 February 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Lynn Parsons, and I have been driving an all-electric Nissan Leaf since November of 2015. I live in Parkside Condominium in Bethesda, a garden apartment complex that has 102 buildings on 69 acres. When I purchased my car there was no opportunity for me to charge my car at home. The inconvenience of being limited to public charging spurred my determination seek permission to install a home charging option.

After a year and many hours of time invested, I was granted permission to pay for the installation of a sub metered 110V outlet on a post in the parking lot beside my building.

In 2019 three additional EV driving residents began using this outlet. It became apparent that four cars charging as needed on a single 110 outlet is not practical. I requested that I be able to upgrade the outlet to Level 2 or split the wiring I had paid for to service two 110v outlets. My request was denied because the Board was considering a budget for a central charging station (a project proposed by the Board President and liaison to the original ad hoc committee 3 years ago).

The proposal is for four level 2 chargers in a lot that services the swimming pool, management office and two clubhouses. While this would be very beneficial to EV drivers a short walk away when there is no contention for the spaces, “centralized” level 2 charging is not “home charging” for residents living several blocks from the charger especially as the number of EVs increase. The Board members do not currently drive EVs and are understandably dismissing my concerns that centralized charging is not an equitable solution in our sprawling community.

Consider walking to and from a 3-4 block distance carrying children/groceries, in sickness, in whatever weather every time a charge is needed (more frequent than a visit to a gas station). This solution while certainly valuable for some, is threatened with strong opposition from residents who don’t perceive the additions to be a benefit.

I very gratefully have a solution that works very well for me but the **burden of effort to achieve it is not one most HOA dwelling residents are likely to endure.** I believe HB 111 is the solution those Marylanders need to be able to work out a reasonable, practical

solution for home charging with an HOA that has the benefit of legislation to guide and back its decisions.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Parsons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Parsons
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