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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 11, 2020

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT – SB 474 – Vehicle Laws – Plug-in Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

As you are aware, the State has a goal of getting 300,000 zero-emission vehicles on our roads by 2025, with the bulk of those vehicles expected to be plug-in electric vehicles (EVs). To support this statewide goal, the Public Service Commission is working with our State's public utilities to develop policies and programs to install over 900 public-use (utility-owned) EV charging stations across the state. This is in addition to EV charging stations being installed by private developers, municipalities, and businesses such as Whole Foods.

SB 474 provides needed legislation to prevent non-electric vehicles from parking in spaces intended for EV-only usage. As an EV owner, I have regularly experienced gas-powered vehicles parked in EV charging spaces, blocking needed access to the charging equipment. The lack of a law is creating confusion and uneven enforcement in Maryland. For example, in Riverdale Park, the police department is willing to issue citations upon request, but in other municipalities, such as New Carrollton, police officers will not issue citations because there is no law on the books. SB 474 will update our vehicle laws to accommodate an ever growing number of EVs on Maryland's roadways.

I urge a favorable report on SB 474. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Stanek
Chairman