



**Testimony of Antoine M. Thompson  
Executive Director  
Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition  
Before the  
State of Maryland  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Grid Reliability and Inclusive Distribution Act HB88 Hearing - HB88 Support  
February 3, 2022**

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Good morning. My name is Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC). I am also a homeowner in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Our Coalition is one of the 90+ Clean Cities Coalitions around the country supported by the US Department of Energy. We are a public-private partnership composed of representatives of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the District government, regional governments, national trade associations, public and private companies and public utility companies including Washington Gas. We are headquartered in the District of Columbia and have programmatic responsibility for the region including District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Maryland.

The mission of our Coalition is to promote the use of clean domestic fuels to assure our nation's and region's climate security, energy independence and clean air by reducing our dependence on gasoline and diesel transportation fuels.

I personally have been engaged in the clean transportation work for more than 20 years, including being a New York State Senator and the former chair of the NY Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation championing green initiatives, climate justice, and expanding access to and investments in public transit.

I am here to testify today in strong support of passing the Grid Reliability and Inclusive Distribution Act HB88.

First of all, GWRCCC strives to ensure a just and equitable clean energy transition which aligns with the Distribution System planning process to be done in an equitable way to produce reliable, future-oriented energy infrastructure.

As the state and nation moves toward employing more electric vehicles, we need to make more investments in the grid to support these vehicles. This directly affects GWRCCC because we are a key stakeholder for the Mid Atlantic Electrification Partnership, where we are responsible for placing 200 electric vehicle (EV) chargers in DC, Maryland and Virginia. Hence, it's important that there are strong and significant investments in the grid to ensure that energy is readily available and reliable. In addition, the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law will place 500,000 EV chargers across the country, some of which will be placed in Maryland, requiring Maryland to have a stronger, more reliable grid.

Lastly, GWRCCC is calling on a reliable grid everywhere, not just in affluent areas. The GWRCCC represents rural areas as well as cities, suburbs and many of the counties adjacent to the District of Columbia. Currently, if you go on the Alternative Fuel Data Center Station Locator website ([Alternative Fuels Data Center: Alternative Fueling Station Locator](https://www.energy.gov/alternative-fuels-data-center/alternative-fueling-station-locator) (energy.gov)) you will notice that there are vast disparities in access to public charging stations in the State of Maryland. Without intentionality, electric vehicle charging gaps and deserts in Maryland will only grow in number and size. We strongly encourage this distinguished body and the state leadership to pass this legislation and ensure the planning committee has an equitable team with representation from neighborhoods throughout Maryland.

We stand ready to assist the State of Maryland as it improves grid reliability and fosters environmental equity and justice.