



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: January 17, 2023
RE: HB0312 - VEIP Exempt Vehicle Fee

The MLLC supports HB0312 - VEIP Exempt Vehicle Fee

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0312.

There are almost 570,000 vehicles registered in the State that are exempt from VEIP testing.¹ This means that thousands of vehicles are contributing to greater greenhouse gas emissions without having to undergo testing at all. Emissions from the transportation sector currently account for 29%, the largest percentage of greenhouse gas emissions in the country.² A study published by the NIH in 2016 found associations between exposures to particulate matter and reduced lung function in Latino and African American children with asthma from different geographical regions in the United States.³ It is imperative that we decrease greenhouse gas emissions and hold polluters accountable.

According to a study from researchers at Harvard University, replacing gas-powered vehicles with electric vehicles in cities could significantly reduce air pollution-related death and illness.⁴ Additionally, an analysis of six electric vehicle adoption-energy generation scenarios found that vehicle electrification in the United States could annually prevent hundreds-to-thousands of premature deaths while also reducing CO2 emissions by hundreds of millions of tons.⁵ This bill will ensure that vehicles that are exempt from vehicle emissions testing experience a sanction that benefits efforts to increase the prevalence of and access to electric vehicles, minimizing the adverse health effects on Latino and African American communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on

¹ Data provided by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration as of November 1, 2021

² *Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions* | US EPA. (n.d.).

³ Neophytou, A. M., White, M. J., Oh, S. S., Thakur, N., Galanter, J. M., Nishimura, K. K., Pino-Yanes, M., Torgerson, D. G., Gignoux, C. R., Eng, C., Nguyen, E. A., Hu, D., Mak, A. C., Kumar, R., Seibold, M. A., Davis, A., Farber, H. J., Meade, K., Avila, P. C., ... Burchard, E. G. (2016). Air Pollution and Lung Function in Minority Youth with Asthma in the GALA II (Genes-Environments and Admixture in Latino Americans) and SAGE II (Study of African Americans, Asthma, Genes, and Environments) Studies. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 193(11), 1271-1280.

⁴ Choma, E. F., Evans, J. S., Hammitt, J. K., Gómez-Ibáñez, J. A., & Spengler, J. D. (2020). Assessing the health impacts of electric vehicles through air pollution in the United States. *Environment International*, 144.

⁵ Peters, D. R., Schnell, J. L., Kinney, P. L., Naik, V., & Horton, D. E. (2020). Public Health and Climate Benefits and Trade-Offs of U.S. Vehicle Electrification. *GeoHealth*, 4(10), e2020GH000275. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GH000275>

HB0312.