



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary-Designee Serena McIlwain**

House Bill 7

Electric Vehicle Recharging and Equipment Rebate Program - Renewal

Position: Support
Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee
Date: February 2, 2023
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 7. The bill would expand zero emission vehicle (ZEV) charging infrastructure opportunities and assist Maryland in meeting its climate change and clean air goals.

Bill Analysis

This bill would extend the duration of the Electric Recharging Equipment Program (the Program) through FY 2027 and increase the total amount of funding for rebates issued annually under the Program for ZEV charging infrastructure from \$1.8 million to \$2.0 million. The bill would also: (1) repeal the additional rebates that may be issued to retail service station dealers; (2) limit the issuance of rebates to one recharging system per individual per address; and (3) authorize the Maryland Energy Administration to offer additional benefits under certain circumstances, such as additional benefits for condominiums in environmental justice communities.

Position Rationale

Transportation pollution now accounts for almost half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated in the State and are also a significant source of nitrogen oxide emissions that contribute to ground-level ozone pollution. The broad adoption of ZEVs will help the State achieve its GHG emission reduction goals established under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (SB 528) and maintain federal air quality standards. However, ZEV adoption will be limited unless sufficient charging infrastructure is in place.

The Program is a critical and established method for deploying charging infrastructure. The Program has proven to be popular, exhausting its current funding levels early in the fiscal year. MDE believes the increased funding to the Program will expand the State's ZEV charging infrastructure and improve charging infrastructure opportunities for communities with environmental justice concerns.

While HB 7 is a needed step towards meeting our climate change goals, additional new and dedicated funding sources for ZEV adoption, charging infrastructure, and other transportation decarbonization measures are also needed. For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 7.