

January 31, 2023

Honorable Chair Kumar Barve  
House Committee on Environment and Transportation  
House Office Building 6, Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 7 –Testimony in Support

Dear Honorable Chair Barve and members of the House Committee on Environment and Transportation,

[The Electrification Coalition](#) is **writing in support of House Bill 7, the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program, that renews funding for rebates across the state.** The Electrification Coalition (EC) is a nationally recognized non-partisan, non-profit organization that is focused on achieving the mass adoption of electric vehicles through a combination of stakeholder engagement, technical support, direct implementation, and policy support to facilitate the deployment of electric vehicles on a mass scale in order to combat the national security, economic, and public health impacts associated with the nation's dependence on oil. The Electrification Coalition's work in Maryland and other states is aided by our Energy Security Leadership Council - a group of senior business leaders and retired 4-star Admirals and Generals who find common purpose in the need to electrify the transportation sector as a matter of national and economic security.

The U.S. transportation sector's overwhelming dependence on volatile global oil markets – and the unreliable actors who influence them – is a direct threat to the interests of the United States and our allies. While oil has facilitated the rise of the modern era, our over reliance on it creates tremendous energy security vulnerabilities because the price of this critical commodity is subject to manipulations by OPEC+ and global events that are beyond our ability to control. Such manipulations constrain U.S. foreign policymaking, affect the flexibility and activities of the military, impact consumers at the pump, and threaten economic growth. The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) across all sectors of transportation can improve our national security, as these clean vehicles are powered by electricity generated from domestic sources that are readily available, cleaner and stably priced.

In addition, climate change is a huge threat to our national security, and EVs will significantly contribute to a decrease in carbon emissions, as they emit zero tailpipe emissions and have an overall lower profile of lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional internal combustion vehicles. EVs bring many benefits beyond this reduced reliance on oil and reduced carbon emissions - EVs provide fuel and maintenance savings for consumers and businesses, improve air quality and public health and offer new jobs in the tech and innovation sectors

In order to significantly improve our national security and to decarbonize the transportation sector, Maryland needs additional policies that will support the transition to transportation electrification. The Electric Vehicle Recharging Rebate Program has been a key resource available to Marylanders in accelerating adoption of EVs and the deployment of the charging infrastructure needed to support the

coming wave of EV adoption. The program has been consistently in high demand, and renewing the program funding will allow more Marylanders to lessen their reliance on oil and contribute to establishing Maryland's regional and national leadership in transportation electrification and energy security. The rebate program will continue to support individuals, businesses, and local government agencies that are eager to electrify by lessening the barrier to entry to accessing equipment.

The Electrification Coalition supports both the date extension and the funding increase of this program. The depletion of funds prior to the previous end date of the program is evidence that Marylanders are excited for the EV future but are still seeking support in the transition away from petroleum-based transportation. Along with allowing more Marylanders to access critical charging technology, increased funding aligns with new bold investment from the federal government in transportation electrification. The rebates provided by the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program complement new federal programs by providing expanded access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the state and can help to attract and leverage additional private investment for Maryland, ensuring the overall success of the Rebate Program and federal investment allocated to Maryland.

Maryland stands to benefit from the improved support to EV and EV charging infrastructure adoption and the related demand for vehicles, batteries, and inputs across the entire supply and service chains.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 7. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. Please contact Rebecca Sereboff, Sr. Analyst, at [rsereboff@electrificationcoalition.org](mailto:rsereboff@electrificationcoalition.org) with further questions.

Sincerely,



Ben Prochazka  
Executive Director  
Electrification Coalition