



Mayor and Council of Rockville

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HB 7: ELECTRIC VEHICLE RECHARGING REBATE PROGRAM – RENEWAL SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chair Barve and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to comment on *HB 7: Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program – Renewal*. The Mayor and Council support HB 7. The City, with its population of over 70,000, supports increasing equitable availability of recharging to support electric vehicles as a critical component of promoting access to sustainable transportation in Maryland. We are also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air pollution and support State efforts that demonstrate climate and energy leadership.

The City of Rockville supports state-wide action to develop a supportive network of charging stations as one of many measures that will improve public health, the environment, and assist the City of Rockville in meeting its climate action commitments. Drawing on Maryland's electricity grid, electric vehicles' annual indirect emissions are about one-fifth the amount of a conventional gas-powered vehicle. A reduction in emissions will reduce harmful air pollutants and protect public health while reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Maryland's goal is to reach 300,000 electric vehicles by 2025, yet currently, electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles comprise only 62,744, less than one-quarter. Although electric vehicles tend to have lower maintenance and fuel costs, the upfront costs of electric vehicles and their recharging equipment can be prohibitive. We support the General Assembly's efforts to continue to incentivize the expansion of electric and fuel cell vehicles and infrastructure in Maryland through the extension of an electric vehicle recharging equipment rebate program.

We urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report. We thank the Committee for considering Rockville's comments as it deliberates the merits of this legislation.