



**MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS**

March 25, 2024

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SUPPORT: HB689 - Electric Vehicles – Repeal of Excise Tax Credit and Establishment of Rebate Program

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB689 - Electric Vehicles – Repeal of Excise Tax Credit and Establishment of Rebate Program, and we thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for his leadership on this issue.

Transportation remains the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in our state, and the associated pollution disproportionately impacts communities of color and low-wealth communities. The detrimental effects of tailpipe emissions, filled with carcinogens, particulate matter, and soot, significantly increase the lifetime risk of cancer, incidents of asthma, and heart disease.

On December 28, 2023, The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) released Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, outlining a comprehensive framework to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 60% by 2031, with a net-zero target by 2045. The plan emphasizes the need to transition a significant portion of the light-duty fleet to Zero Emission Vehicles by 2031. To achieve this goal, the Plan outlines a series of recommendations including increasing investments to help Marylanders purchase electric vehicles.

HB689 proposes the repeal of the electric vehicle excise tax credit and the establishment of the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program in Maryland. The creation of an Electric Vehicle Rebate Program is consistent with the recommendations from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. We are disappointed HB689 has been amended in the House to remove provisions regarding income requirements and prioritized outreach to low and moderate-income superusers, defined as individuals using more than 1,000 gallons of fuel per year.

This Rebate Program will lower the upfront cost of buying electric vehicles and incentivize the adoption of electric vehicles in Maryland.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.