

Committee: Environment & Transportation
Economic Matters
Testimony on: HB1247
Submitting: Deborah A. Cohn
Position: Unfavorable
Hearing Date: March 8, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony on HB1247. I urge an **unfavorable report** on this bill.

Maryland has committed to reduce state greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 60% by 2031 compared to the 2006 level and 100% by 2045. The transportation sector is Maryland's number one generator of climate-damaging GHG emissions. To meet the state's GHG reduction goals, Maryland must implement the California Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII) regulations without delay.

Tailpipe emissions from combustion energy vehicles are hazardous to human health and contribute to cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases. More than 80% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet federal clean air standards for ozone, due in significant part to tailpipe emissions. Many black and brown communities in Maryland are particularly hard hit with health issues caused by tailpipe pollution due to the cumulative impact created by their proximity to major highways and roadways and industry polluters.

In 2013, Maryland joined seven other states in signing a memorandum of understanding committing to have 300,000 zero-emission vehicles (including plug-ins) on the road by 2025, and 600,000 EVs on the road by 2030. While adoption of fully electric vehicles (EVs) is moderating, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles are very popular and sales are increasing. With the federal government and state committed to increasing the availability of EV charging stations, including not only publically available charging stations but also conveniently located charging infrastructure where people live, there is no justification for delaying implementation of the ACCII regulations – not when human health is at stake and timely implement is economically feasible.

Accordingly, I urge an unfavorable report on HB1247 from this committee.

Thank you.

Deborah A. Cohn