

Testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 689 Electric Vehicles - Repeal of Excise Tax Credit and Establishment of Rebate Program

Position: Favorable

11 February 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Room 251, House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Scott Wilson, and I currently drive a 2017 Chevy Bolt EV and a 2013 Nissan Leaf. I serve on the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council, and I'm also Vice President of the Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington DC. I recommend the passage of HB 689 for the following reasons.

This legislation has been needed for a long time. EV incentives in Maryland have always relied on an awkward mechanism of getting a payment from the state for an amount reimbursing a large part of the 6% excise paid at the time of purchase. Fortunately, the current federal EV incentives are now point-of-sale rebates, thus the buyer can take immediate advantage of them when negotiating an EV purchase. How wonderful it would be if the buyer could combine *both* federal *and* state incentives into the point-of-sale rebate. Doing so would open up what I call the "EV Opportunity" to many, many more Marylanders.

The dealer reporting requirements would not be burdensome, since they would mirror what dealers are already doing at the time of purchase, namely logging EV purchases into an IRS database, which issues rebates within 48 hours. The Comptroller could either create its own database, or possibly pull data directly from the IRS database.

The bill also prioritizes outreach to persons using more than 1000 gallons of fuel per year. These are what has come to be known as "Gasoline Superusers". Studies have shown that the top 10% of drivers burn 35% of all gasoline. If we can target them, we can get much more carbon reduction for our incentive dollar.

Please give favorable consideration to HB 689.

Thank you for your time,

Scott Wilson