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**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Testimony on: HB 150 - “Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program and Diesel Vehicle Emissions Control Program - Fees and Fines”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: February 1, 2024**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB150. This bill would establish a recurring fee on motor vehicles registered in the state that are exempt from Maryland’s Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP). The fee would be deposited into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and be used to provide incentives to expand electric vehicle ownership and expand electric vehicle infrastructure.

Emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles are a primary source of climate-disrupting greenhouse gas emissions and other toxic emissions that are hazardous to human health and need to be reduced. The Maryland Department of Transportation’s 2024 Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance included a goal of 1.1 million electric vehicles being registered in Maryland by 2030. The funding generated by this legislation for vehicle electrification would support this goal as well as the electric vehicle sales requirements of the Advanced Clean Cars II program that are needed to meet our climate targets.

Maryland’s VEIP plays an important role in the state’s efforts to improve air quality. The Program is able to identify vehicles that fail to meet emission standards and require needed repairs in order to continue to travel in the state. There is a \$14 fee for the VEIP test. However, certain vehicles such as large trucks over 26,000 pounds and historic and antique vehicles are exempt from participating in the VEIP program and do not currently have to pay \$14 every two years.

HB150 is an equitable way to raise funds needed to stimulate the purchase of EVs. The owner of a motor vehicle registered in the state that is exempt from the VEIP would be required to pay the same modest amount every two years, \$14, as other vehicle owners pay.

HB150 would promote improved air quality and reduce climate pollution. We urge a favorable report on this bill.

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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.