

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
 President
 ROBIN WEIMAN
 1st Vice President
 AMALIA HONICK
 BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
 RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
 RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
 MELANIE SHAPIRO
 RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
 Past President
 HOWARD LIBIT
 Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
 American Jewish Committee
 Americans for Peace Now
 Baltimore Chapter
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 American Zionist Movement
 Amit Women
 Association of Reform Zionists of America
 Baltimore Board of Rabbis
 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
 Baltimore Men's ORT
 Baltimore Zionist District
 Beth Am Congregation
 Beth El Congregation
 Beth Israel Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation of
 Howard County
 Beth Tfiloh Congregation
 B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation
 Congregation Beit Tikvah
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
 Jewish Federation of Howard County
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish War Veterans
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
 Jewish Women International
 Jews For Judaism
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
 Hebrew Congregation
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Written Testimony
House Bill 689 - Electric Vehicles – Repeal of Excise Tax Credit and
Establishment of Rebate Program
Environment and Transportation Committee – February 15, 2024
Support

Background: House Bill 689 would repeal the current electric vehicle tax credit and establish the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program; set certain maximum income requirements for an individual to receive an electric vehicle rebate; require the Motor Vehicle Administration to create a website to administer the rebate program; require a participating dealer to provide a rebate to an eligible buyer at the time the buyer purchases an eligible vehicle; and require the Administration to reimburse a dealer for rebates provided by the dealer.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world.

For many individuals, the thought of switching to an electric vehicle can be daunting. Aside from the obvious lifestyle change of “plugging in” rather than “gassing up,” the price tag can be a strong deterrent. The current practice of tax incentives for buyers can seem appealing, but they take time to file, process, and eventually receive. By eliminating current practice and replacing this system with a rebate program, Maryland would allow electric vehicles to become more accessible to buyers. A rebate program that is run directly through the dealership at the time of purchase will allow buyers to feel immediate financial relief. Even better, dealers will easily obtain reimbursement for the rebate through the Comptroller’s Office.

Of course, this will only be available to buyers that financially qualify, and if it is later determined by the Comptroller’s Office that a buyer was not eligible, they will be billed accordingly. Providing these checks and balances will allow for the program to be administered efficiently.

The more electric vehicles we can get on the road, the less carbon emissions we’ll be forced to breathe in each day. By increasing the accessibility of purchasing an electric vehicle, we are taking a step toward repairing the world.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB689.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.