

March 4, 2024

Chair Smith, Jr.  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – S.B. 870, Vehicle Laws – Electric Vehicles – Weight Limits

Dear Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

[The Electrification Coalition](#) (EC) expresses strong support for S.B. 870 to increase vehicle weight limits by an additional 2,000 pounds, which would align the state highway system with the 2,000 pound weight exemption for battery electric vehicles operating on the federal interstate system that the Federal Government implemented through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019. The EC urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to vote the bill favorably out of Committee.


The EC is a national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization committed to promoting policies and actions that facilitate the deployment of electric vehicles on a mass scale to combat the national security, economic, and public health impacts associated with our nation's dependence on oil. Mass adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) is key to addressing the U.S.'s reliance on oil, which currently powers 90% of our nation's transportation system and affects not only our national security but our economic security as well. EVs plug into a grid that is domestic, diverse, and can insulate our businesses and consumers from the volatile nature of oil prices.

The EC is working to accelerate commercial vehicle electrification adoption across the country, including Maryland, as part of our [Electric Freight Consortium](#), a forum for collaboration between the EC and 35 private sector partners to accelerate freight electrification in the U.S. **Electric Freight Consortium members and other stakeholders in the industry routinely identify raising weight limits as a key lever to increase the adoption of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.**

S.B. 870 will help accelerate the adoption of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and transportation electrification across Maryland. In addition to helping insulate Maryland business owners from the national and economic security concerns of our reliance on oil, enactment of this legislation will send a signal to the industry that the state of Maryland is committed to transportation decarbonization and becoming net-zero emissions by 2045 as set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act. **Therefore, in the interest of national and economic security, as well as the many other air quality and public health benefits of electrification, the EC writes in support of S.B. 870**

The EC looks forward to working with the Committee as this bill moves forward. For any questions, please contact Alma Meckler-Pacheco at [amecklerpacheco@electrificationcoalition.org](mailto:amecklerpacheco@electrificationcoalition.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Anne Blair

**Vice President, Policy & Freight**  
**Electrification Coalition**