

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB 451 “Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council – Reporting, and Sunset Extension”
Position: Support
Hearing Date: 2/12/2026

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 451. This bill would change the deadlines for the interim and final requirements for the Maryland Zero-Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2031. The bill also would extend the termination date for the Council until June 30, 2031.

Extending the lifespan of the Council is important to encourage the growth of Electric Vehicle (EV) purchases, reduce the number of gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles on the road, and ensure sufficient charging infrastructure is installed to power Maryland’s light-, medium- and heavy-duty EVs. This is critical because transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. Vehicle tailpipe emissions also are hazardous to human health and are linked to various cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases.

It is especially important to continue the work of the Council given the current political landscape at the national level, making State work even more critical to the goal of reducing harmful greenhouse gases and other pollutants from the transportation sector. ZEEVIC’s broad membership, consisting of representatives from various state agencies, state legislators, electric utilities, environmental nonprofits, vehicle and charger manufacturers, and members of the public, brings a wide variety of perspectives to this important issue.

In summary, this bill represents a necessary next step for the Council to promote more EV usage in our state and help the state meet its climate goals. We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this legislation.

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