



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: HB 451 - Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council – Reporting and Sunset Extension

DATE: February 12, 2026

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Energy Administration respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for House Bill 451.

HB 451 extends the termination date of the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (“ZEEVIC” or “Council”) and updates the Council’s interim and final reporting deadlines. MEA believes the council plays a critical role in aligning State agencies, utilities, local governments, and private-sector partners around the planning and deployment of EV charging infrastructure. As Maryland accelerates the transition to electric transportation, the work of this Council has shifted from early-stage planning to implementation, coordination, and problem-solving. Extending the Council’s timeline allows the State to sustain that momentum and respond to evolving infrastructure, grid, workforce, and equity considerations.

MEA actively supports initiatives that advance EV adoption and charging infrastructure across Maryland through grant programs, technical assistance, federal funding coordination, and stakeholder engagement. The Council complements this work by providing a formal forum to surface barriers, track progress, and develop actionable recommendations that strengthen program delivery and maximize public benefit. The Council provides a platform for stakeholder interaction to advance EV adoption, especially at a time when federal support has declined. Continued reporting ensures transparency and provides policymakers with timely information to guide future investments and policy decisions. Extending the Council ensures Maryland remains well-positioned to leverage State and federal resources, support local implementation, and meet growing demand for electric transportation options.

MEA supports the bill. However, MEA urges that the committee carefully consider the amendments being proposed by the Maryland Department of Transportation (“MDOT”). These amendments would alter the structure and mission of ZEEVIC to better align with the current environment, as it stands, when it comes to EV deployment.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to adopt the MDOT amendments and issue a favorable report.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.