



Maryland Chapter

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**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Testimony on: HB1316 - “Residential Construction - Electric Vehicle Charging”**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 25, 2020**

The Maryland Sierra Club strongly supports HB1316, which would support installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment in new single-family detached homes, town houses and multi-family dwellings.

The bill specifies that the garage, carport or driveway of each new housing unit under construction should include an electric vehicle charging station or a dedicated electric line of sufficient voltage to support the later addition of an EV charging station. If the new housing units will not each have a garage, carport or driveway but will include off-street communal parking, the construction should ensure that at least one communal parking space for each 25 residential units has an EV charging station, with those parking spaces marked as intended for EV charging only.

Approximately 330,000 electric vehicles were sold in the U.S. last year, and almost two million were sold worldwide. More and more consumers recognize the growing value and quality of plug-in vehicles. Automakers have many more EV models on the way. However, a significant limitation on continued growth of EVs is the availability of charging infrastructure.

Encouraging the growth of EVs is critically important because transportation is now the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in this country. Tailpipe emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles also are hazardous to human health and are linked to various cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases. As more coal plants are retired, and more clean renewable sources of power are brought online, the emissions from utilities providing electricity to charge electric vehicles will continue to decline.

In summary, this bill is a common-sense approach to making electric vehicle charging equipment available to more individuals at their homes. The bill’s passage would encourage more EV usage in our state, which would reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions and improve our environment. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on this legislation.

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