

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY  
*People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity*

March 2, 2020

Delegate and Committee Chair Kumar P. Barve  
Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee  
*Sent by email*

RE: Support for HB1451, School Bus Purchasing – Zero Emission Vehicle - Requirement Act

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee,

I am writing in support of HB1451, the 2020 School Bus Purchasing – Zero Emission Vehicle - Requirement Act, which requires that every school bus purchased by county boards of education to be a zero-emission vehicle, beginning in 2023, with similar requirements for all counties whose buses are provided by independent contractors beginning in 2026.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. Our members include representatives from community organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry, along with one appointed elected member of the City Council. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

Given our mandate to advance sustainability and equity to benefit all of the residents of Baltimore, we have a strong interest in the success of HB1451. Diesel emissions have significant acute impacts on air quality, and these impacts are most direct for the children riding these buses, for the workers who operate and maintain buses, and for the generally lower income communities along transit corridors where emissions are highest. In addition, diesel fuel contributes to climate change, with long-term impacts that are expected to be most difficult for poorer communities.

We urge the Committee to support HB1451.

Sincerely,



Miriam Avins  
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo