



7338 Baltimore Ave
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Committee: Environment & Transportation

Testimony on: HB1233 “State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 5, 2020

The Maryland Sierra Club strongly supports HB1233. The bill would significantly accelerate the process for converting the state vehicle fleet to zero emission vehicles by requiring the state, beginning in fiscal year 2022, to only purchase or lease zero emission vehicles for the fleet.

In 2018, the Department of Budget and Management indicated that the state fleet consists of approximately 8,900 vehicles, including approximately 2,200 for the Maryland Department of Transportation and 7,550 non-law enforcement light-duty vehicles. The state purchases about 750 new vehicles each year and spends approximately \$1,000 on gasoline for each regular light-duty sedan each year.

Transportation is the number one source of climate-disrupting carbon pollution in Maryland. Our state’s latest Greenhouse Gas Inventory indicates that gasoline and diesel vehicles account for 89% of this pollution. Tailpipe emissions from vehicles also are hazardous to human health, and contribute to cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases. In 2013, Maryland joined seven other states in signing a Memorandum of Understanding committing to have 300,000 zero emission passenger vehicles on the road by 2025. Currently there are only approximately 24,000 zero emission vehicles registered in Maryland.

New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont have established legislative or executive targets for including more zero emission vehicles in new fleet purchases. A bill that passed this year in New York requires its transit agency to purchase an all zero-emission bus fleet by 2032 and develop a plan to electrify medium and heavy-duty vehicles (like port trucks and delivery vans) by the end of this year.

In summary, converting the state fleet to zero emission electric vehicles is necessary to meet our climate targets and protect public health. This bill would also generate savings for vehicle purchases by cutting fuel and maintenance costs. We urge a favorable report on HB1233.

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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has approximately 800,000 members.