



**HB1451 – School Bus Purchasing – Zero–Emission
Vehicle – Requirement
Testimony before House Ways & Means Committee
March 4, 2020^[1]_[SEP]
Position: Favorable**

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Michael Loll and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in ***strong support of HB1451*** which would require school districts to purchase zero emission buses by a designated deadline.

According to the medical journal CMAJ, “Diesel fuel produces exhaust components that tend to form into spherical, respirable particles about 0.1–0.5 μm in diameter. These particles consist of an inert carbonaceous core with a large surface area that is ideal for adsorbing heavy metals and organic compounds”. This report went on to state that inhaling diesel exhaust exacerbates asthma, and is a known risk for lung cancer. In addition, children riding in a diesel school bus may be exposed to exhaust levels four times higher than individuals riding in a car ahead of the bus. Riding in a school bus 1-2 hours a day, 180 days a year for 10 years could produce 23-46 additional cancer deaths per million children, not to mention the short-term potential to trigger asthma attacks.

Given the ongoing risk to children posed by diesel buses, **we strongly urge a favorable report.**

(1) Weir, E. "Diesel exhaust, school buses and children's health."
CMAJ/JMAC. 3 Sep 2002
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC121970/>