



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 4, 2020

TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environmental and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 1451 – *School Bus Purchasing – Zero-Emission Vehicle – Requirement* – Support

I support House Bill 1451 because it requires local school systems to begin purchasing zero-emission school buses beginning on October 1, 2023. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the transportation sector accounted for 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in 2017, the largest share of all the economic sectors in the nation. Every level of government must take all possible steps to address climate change and move to clean, renewable energy. Removing diesel buses from the road is an achievable objective and will also assist the State and counties in reaching their climate goals.

In Montgomery County, our transportation department received two federal grants to purchase 14 electric buses and chargers for its Countywide Ride On program. The first four electric buses have been delivered and are ready for service. The County has installed two charging stations in support of the initial four buses and is currently installing charging stations to increase its charging capacity at its Silver Spring Bus Depot. The Department anticipates that each bus will have a range of approximately 120 miles between charges. The County will continue to purchase electric buses, with the goal of adding 70 electric buses to its fleet in the next few years with an eventual goal of a 100% electric fleet. In addition, through the use of a public-private partnership, the County will develop new infrastructure that will include a microgrid comprised of solar canopies, chargers, and battery storage. By using this business model, we can truly green our future transit fleet. Likewise, House Bill 1451 has the potential to do the same for school bus fleets across the State which carry approximately 650,000 children on a daily basis.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request a favorable Committee report on House Bill 1451.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Members of the Environmental and Transportation Committee