



MARYLAND
ZERO EMISSION
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 832 – An Act Concerning Public Utilities – Electric School Bus Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (“ZEEVIC” or “Council”) has reviewed HB 832. ZEEVIC is supportive of expanding access to zero-emission school buses, which is a goal generally consistent with the mission of ZEEVIC and the State’s goals for electric vehicle (“EV”) promotion and proliferation to help address climate change and improve air quality.

ZEEVIC was established through legislation introduced in 2011 as part of a package of bills to promote EVs in the State of Maryland. ZEEVIC’s mission is to: evaluate incentives for the ownership of EVs and the purchase of EV charging equipment; develop recommendations for a statewide infrastructure plan; and, propose policies to promote the successful integration of EVs into Maryland’s communities and the transportation system.

As introduced, HB 832 would establish an electric school bus pilot program to be implemented and administered by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and carried out primarily through rebates to participating school systems. HB 832 further proposes that rebates would be issued by investor-owned electric companies, with further review and approvals by the PSC.

ZEEVIC is supportive of increasing access to school bus electrification across Maryland. The Council’s Legislative Working Group appreciates the complexity of ensuring that efforts to expand equitable and sustainable access to school bus electrification will require careful consideration of issues including, but not limited to, the scope of statutory and regulatory authorization, community needs, program design and administration, and long-term business models.

The Council’s Legislative Working Group welcomes the opportunity to review this bill, and we look forward to reviewing future legislative efforts regarding electric vehicles.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin George Miller".

Kevin George Miller
Chair, Legislative Working Group
ZEEVIC