



TESTIMONY FOR SB0137
MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION – CONVERSION TO ZERO-EMISSION
BUSES (ZERO-EMISSION BUS TRANSITION ACT)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Zucker

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0023 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members support transitioning the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) bus fleet to Zero-Emission buses. We understand that it cannot happen overnight, and we think that the plan proposed in the bill is reasonable. Starting in FY 2023, the bill prohibits MTA from entering into new contracts to purchase buses that are not Zero-Emission.

One of the other important measures in the bill is a requirement for development of a plan for transitioning any state workers adversely affected by the change-over to similar roles with commensurate seniority, pay, and benefits.

This bill will not disrupt any existing procurement contracts and will give MTA significant time to develop the infrastructure necessary to deploy Zero-Emission buses without disrupting existing service.

Given that the majority of the greenhouse gases produced in Maryland come from the transportation sector, this is a step forward towards meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets and enjoying cleaner transportation.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.