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March 31, 2021

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Steven M. Sakamoto-Wengel
Consumer Protection Counsel for Regulation, Legislation and Policy

Re: House Bill 784 – Residential Construction - Electric Vehicle Charging (SUPPORT)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General supports House Bill 784 sponsored by Delegate Terrasa. House Bill 784 requires a builder of new single-family homes and townhomes that include a garage, carport or driveway to offer the homebuyer the option of either an electric vehicle charging station or a dedicated line of sufficient voltage to later support the addition of an electric vehicle charging station. The bill further requires the builder to provide buyers and prospective buyers information regarding the electric vehicle charging option and any available rebates.

House Bill 784 furthers Maryland's clean energy goals by encouraging the use of electric vehicles and removes the impediments that may make ownership of these vehicles difficult. Electric vehicles reduce an individual's carbon footprint and help to protect the environment. However, the limited availability of vehicle charging stations can make owning an electric vehicle impractical for many individuals. Offering the homebuyer the option of having a charging station included in their new home increases the likelihood that individuals would purchase an electric vehicle if they wish to do so. Additionally, providing information about available rebates provides further incentives for a homebuyer to make an environmentally-friendly vehicle purchase.

For these reasons, we ask that the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee give House Bill 784 a favorable report.

cc: The Honorable Jen Terrasa
Members, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee