



HB 480– Vehicle Laws - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces

Testimony before House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 4, 2021

Position: Favorable

Mr. 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 HB 480*** to ensure electric vehicle (EV) owners have access to public charging stations free of harassment.

As electric vehicles have become more popular over the course of the last decade, a practice known as “ICEing”, aka “internal combustion engine” vehicle parking in EV charging spots, has come into vogue. ICEing occurs when owners of gas fueled cars and trucks park in recharging spots with the express aim to prevent EV owners from recharging. Requests to move are often ignored. As far as we know, there are no studies done on the prevalence of ICEing in Maryland, although there are certainly anecdotal reports (<https://www.wheelsjoint.com/a-guy-blocking-ev-parking-spot-gets-confronted-in-baltimore-maryland/>, <https://www.plugshare.com/location/100810>). It is feared that this practice will become more widespread without proper legal restrictions.

There are laws in Maryland that prohibit ICEing, but only at local or county levels. We need legislation that covers the entire state in order to guarantee EV drivers opportunities to recharge at the limited number of stations Maryland has. In addition, in order to aid enforcement of a state wide law, charging spots need to be marked, with green pavement per the language of this bill, and included in the overall number of a lot’s parking spaces. It seems counterproductive for the state to encourage the purchase of EVs with excise tax credits, then not act to promote access to charging stations. This bill would produce consistency with the incentives Maryland now grants to its residents.

Thank you for your time and attention.

We encourage a favorable report.

Michael Loll
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