



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB0044 – Clean Cars Act of 2021

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 28, 2021

Bill Contact: Delegate David Fraser–Hidalgo

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy and safe in a clean environment and that promote equity across all of our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports HB0044 because providing incentives for Maryland residents to purchase zero- or low-emission electric or fuel-cell cars will help Maryland meet its goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which contribute to climate change, promote good new green jobs, and invest in low-income communities.

GHG emissions are driving global warming and climate change. Maryland is particularly vulnerable to effects of climate change such as sea level rise, which is causing coastal erosion and intrusion of salt water into farmland along our low-lying areas. According to the GHG Inventory produced by the Maryland Department of the Environment, transportation accounts for 40% of GHG emissions in Maryland, and on-road gasoline- and diesel-fueled vehicles account for 90% of those transportation related GHG emissions. Reducing GHG emissions from the transportation sector will help Maryland achieve its ambitious GHG reduction goals. Gasoline and diesel burning cars also emit nitrous oxides and particulates that contribute to smog and cause asthma and other respiratory diseases. Increasing the proportion of electric and fuel-cell powered cars on the road will reduce these air pollutants and improve air quality for all Maryland residents.

HB0264 will address these problems by increasing and extending through 2023 existing excise tax incentives for the purchase of zero-emission all-electric and fuel-cell powered cars and low emission plug-in hybrid cars as well as rebates for installation of qualified electric vehicle recharging equipment for electric cars.

HB0264 will also allow funds from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to be used for loans and grants for zero-emission vehicle infrastructure programs and other transportation sector greenhouse gas reduction and carbon reduction efforts, potentially creating new green jobs.

Furthermore, HB0264 also addresses equity by requiring that at least 50% of the energy-related loans and grants made from compliance fees paid under the Public Utilities Article directly benefit low- to moderate-income residents in Maryland.

Therefore, passage of HB044 will be good for our environment, our health, and our communities. For these reasons, DTMG strongly supports HB0044 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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