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Environment and Transportation Committee

*Chair*  
Motor Vehicle and Transportation  
Subcommittee



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## **Testimony in Support of HB44 The Clean Cars Act of 2021**

Testimony by Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo  
January 28, 2021- Environment and Transportation Committee

This committee has heard testimony on electric vehicles (EVs) for almost a decade. Many of you attended our Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittee briefing in December<sup>1</sup>, which demonstrated that more and more automobile manufacturers and organizations in Maryland recognize that EVs are the way forward to a cleaner future in our state.

In 2011, 75 electric vehicle excise tax credits were awarded in the state. As of Jan 17, 2020, the Motor Vehicle Administration had 2,472 UNFUNDED applications waiting for additional funding. Currently, there are over 24,000 EV and hybrid cars registered in Maryland.<sup>2</sup>

The technology for EVs is evolving at a rapid pace. The battery capacities continue to go up and the costs of the batteries are going down, which is reflected in the sticker prices of new EVs. Mid-priced models are being introduced, which provide an opportunity for people from more income levels to purchase EVs. The network of charging stations is expanding, providing a sense of security and a visible reminder that EVs are a viable option for most.

In 2013, Maryland and the governors of seven other states signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to a coordinated action to ensure the successful implementation of their state's zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) programs. Maryland has a goal of 300,000 ZEVs on the road by 2025 and 600,000 by 2030. I believe that our commitment to the tax credit will be one of the most important components of a successful EV program in Maryland.

The transportation sector continues to be the single largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. I ask you for a favorable report on HB44 for the best

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<sup>1</sup> [Motor Vehicle and Transportation Dec 2020 Subcommittee Briefing- YouTube](#)

<sup>2</sup> According to the Maryland Department of Environment, there are 24,596 registered EVs as of January 31, 2020

possible chance to meet our ZEV commitments and reduce emissions caused by fossil fuels.

### **Clean Cars Act of 2021**

- FY 2021 – FY 2023
- \$1,800,000 for electric vehicle recharging equipment rebates
- Credit is \$3,000 for each zero-emission plug-in or fuel cell vehicle
- Credit is \$1,500 for each plug-in electric hybrid vehicle
- One vehicle per individual
- 10 vehicles per business entity
- Battery capacity of at least 5.0 kilowatt-hours