



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 784 RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION-ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING FEBRUARY 16, 2021

To: Hon. Kumar Barve, Chair, Hon. Dana Stein, Vice Chair and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Tom Clark, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you **support HB 784**. This bill looks into Maryland's future and addresses the environment at its most critical point, utilization. Here is a chance to have everyday Marylanders take part in a cleaner environment. It gives homeowners the option of having a charging station at their front door.

The 2021 legislative session is crowded with "feel good" environmental bills that I quite often disagree with, because they don't help, they just look good to the environmental lobby. HB 784 encourages our citizens to invest in Electric Vehicles and therefore, directly helping Maryland's environment. Buying a home is a person's biggest investment, why not offer them an option to invest in our clean air future.

As a journeyman electrician, I think this bill serves the homeowner as well as the insurance industry. With charging stations added to a new home, the owner can have a reliable, safe means of charging his or her car. When these charging stations are not available, it is a safety and insurance nightmare. Imagine as electric cars grow in popularity, without home charging stations, there would be extension cords littering neighborhoods. Anytime extension cords are overly used in public areas, the chance of electrocution increases, especially for the neighborhood toddlers. As for new homeowners having charging stations installed after the home is built, this can be compared to the electric clothes dryer of the 1950's. Before it was required to have an electric line ran and dryer receptacle installed when the home was built, it was often done by an unqualified person or "jury rigged" and uninspected. Fires and electric shock were commonplace, and insurance companies lobbied in the same state house that you are in today, to require these be installed during construction and inspected by a certified Maryland electrical inspector. Electric Charging Stations are today's electric clothes dryers. Let us not make the same mistakes of our past, let us make our homes as safe as possible.

I ask each of the members of this committee to join the IBEW and those seeking a cleaner, safer, Maryland and **support HB 784**.

Thank you





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