

HBO334: Maryland Transit Administration–Conversion to Zero–Emission Buses (Zero–Emission Bus Transition Act)

Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Members of the Committee:

This bill will help move Maryland toward clean transportation. It will greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support public health, and is a good economic investment. House Bill 0334 would mandate the transition of the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) bus fleet to Zero-Emission buses over time. It also includes a plan to transition that includes taking care of workers negatively affected by the change-over.

Increasing the number of electric buses in the transportation sector would be an important change to help meet Maryland pollution reduction goals. Also, reducing diesel emissions is a way to protect public air from particulate matter and nitrogen oxides.

This is also a win-win for the environment and the economy. Chicago, as an example, has saved more than \$24,000 each year in fuel costs and \$30,000 each year in maintenance costs using a fleet of electric buses. In our own state of Maryland, Frederick county has found that they save more than \$50,000 per bus per year. Zero-emission buses are cost-efficient, and the investment can be recouped in 5 years.

This is a critical time to make changes for the environment. The science shows us that we are close to hitting tipping points that are irreversible. We need to act now. Transitioning MTA's diesel bus transit fleet to Zero-Emission buses is a concrete step we can take that we know will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Lauren Brown