

I am writing to express support for HB44, the Clear Cars Act of 2021.

I have long been a supporter of adopting clean energy. It started with choosing a green energy supplier on my BGE bill as soon as I started living on my own. Three years ago, I installed solar panels on my roof. Most recently, I purchased my first electric vehicle. This purchase was something I have been saving toward for many years, and I absolutely love my new EV. We still have one more gas vehicle to replace with electric, and then my family will have completed our goal to switch to 100% green, renewable energy.

As you may know, electric vehicles typically have a higher up front expense. The vehicle I bought was significantly higher than I was comfortable with initially, but incentives like the \$3000 excise tax credit made it much more palatable. Unfortunately, funding for this credit has fallen behind its demand and there is now a long waiting list. HB44 is a first step toward getting this credit out to Marylanders who need that extra help in doing their part to make a cleaner future. Funding this credit fully to eliminate the backlog and keep up with new applications will also give new purchasers the confidence that they'll receive their credit in a timely manner.

While I do support the bill as proposed, I have one small area that I ask you to consider amending. The bill as proposed expires in 2023. In 2013, Maryland signed a MOU with seven other states, committing to a goal of 300,000 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025, and 600,000 by 2030. I recommend aligning the expiration of this credit to at least align with the 2025 goal. I know for me and my family, buying any vehicle is a long term goal. On our modest teacher salaries, replacing our second vehicle with an electric one by 2023 is simply not financially realistic, especially with our first child on the way in a few months. Extending two more years to 2025 gives us more confidence in our ability to meet that goal. The credit can then be examined again, along with our progress toward 600,000, for extension to 2030.

Thank you,
Brendan Maltese

8246 White Star Xing
Pasadena, MD 21122
District 31b