



HB 44 – Clean Cars Act 2021
Testimony before Senate Finance Committee
March 26, 2021
Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Michael Loll, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **strong support of HB 44** because of the role clean cars can play in reducing the disproportionate effects of particulate pollution on communities of color in Maryland. This type of pollution, known as PM_{2.5}, is produced by gas fueled cars, trucks, and buses. PM_{2.5} is associated with cardiovascular and lung disease, as well as asthma, diabetes, and dementia.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, “African Americans are exposed to 12 percent higher PM_{2.5} concentrations from on-road transportation than the average PM_{2.5} exposure for all Marylanders. Latinos experience concentrations 11 percent higher than the average resident (Figure 1). At the same time, white residents have an average exposure that is 8 percent lower than the average for the state.”

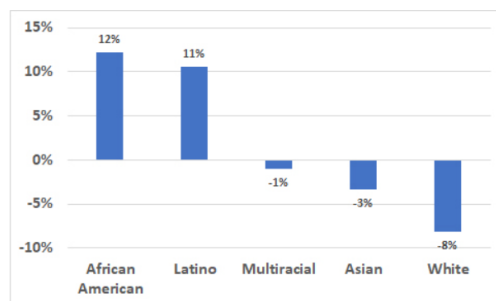


Figure 1. Disproportionately High PM_{2.5} Exposure for African Americans and Latino residents in Maryland

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/cecilia-moura/air-pollution-from-vehicles-maryland>

This same article points out that Baltimore city has particle exposures similar to those of Los Angeles. Land use and zoning decisions made decades ago have placed the housing of minority communities in close proximity to busy streets and highways. People living in these locations have fewer options in choosing where they live and work.

Offering incentives for purchasing clean cars and electric vehicle charging equipment is one way to address the unequal risks African American and Latino residents face from PM_{2.5}. We ask you to take a step toward improving the health of these residents and all of our citizens by passing HB 44.

Thank you for your time and attention.

We encourage a favorable report.

Michael Loll
Columbia, MD