



Mayor and Council of Rockville

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HB 44: CLEAN CARS ACT of 2021

SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chairs Kelley and Guzzone and members of the Senate Finance and Budget and Taxation Committees for the opportunity to comment on HB 44: Clean Cars Act of 2021. The Mayor and Council support HB 44. The City, with its population of over 68,000, supports increasing the percentage of electric vehicles as a critical component of promoting access to sustainable transportation in Maryland. We are also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air pollution and support State efforts that demonstrate climate and energy leadership.

The City of Rockville supports state-wide action to increase the share of electrified vehicles and the supportive network of charging stations as one of many measures that will improve public health, the environment, and assist the City of Rockville in meeting its climate action commitments. Drawing on Maryland's electricity grid, electric vehicles' indirect emissions are on par with an 87 miles per gallon fuel efficient conventional vehicle. A reduction in emissions will reduce harmful air pollutions and protect public health, while reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Maryland's goal is to reach 300,000 electric vehicles by 2025, yet currently, electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles comprise only 29,268, less than one-tenth. Although electric vehicles tend to have lower maintenance and fuel costs, the upfront costs of electric vehicles and their recharging equipment can be prohibitive. We support the General Assembly's efforts to continue to incentivize expansion of electric and fuel cell vehicles and infrastructure in Maryland through the extension of vehicle tax credits for certain electric vehicles and the funding of an electric vehicle recharging equipment rebate program.

We urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report. We thank the Committee for considering Rockville's comments as it deliberates the merits of this legislation.