

March 30, 2021

HB 480 — Vehicle Laws — Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully oppose HB 480 unless amended so that electric vehicle drivers are not unfairly punished if someone unplugs their car unbeknownst to them.

HB 480, as originally introduced, would provide needed consistency to EV charging station signage and provide penalties for gasoline cars and trucks that should not be occupying an electric vehicle charging space under any circumstances.

Unfortunately, the amendment that added the provision that an electric vehicle must be plugged into charging equipment leaves an EV driver vulnerable to having their car ticketed or towed if, for any reason beyond their control, their vehicle becomes unplugged during the course of occupying the charging space. This will likely hurt the very drivers that this bill is designed to help.

One reason mentioned for this type of legislation is to combat malicious actors who block electric vehicle charging stations on purpose to make a statement. By making it illegal to be unplugged at a charging station, what would prevent these same people from unplugging electric cars to express their animosity? A person who unplugs an electric car and walks away is unlikely to be punished. But the EV driver is then susceptible to being towed away or cited by parking enforcement officers which is unfair.

This will lead to negative experiences by EV drivers and be a disincentive to use public charging facilities.

I respectfully ask the Committee to amend HB 480 to strike the words, "THAT IS PLUGGED INTO CHARGING EQUIPMENT" from page 3, lines 3 and 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lanny Hartmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lanny Hartmann
Columbia, MD