

MD ZEEVIC Legislation Support Letter (HB 480)_Sign

Uploaded by: Einhorn, Melissa

Position: FAV



April 1, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 480 – Vehicle Laws – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (“ZEEVIC” or “Council”) has reviewed the contents of HB 480 and determined that the intent of this bill supports both the mission of ZEEVIC and the State’s goals for electric vehicle (“EV”) promotion and proliferation.

ZEEVIC was established through legislation introduced in 2011 as part of a package of bills to promote EVs in the State of Maryland. ZEEVIC’s mission is to: evaluate incentives for the ownership of EVs and the purchase of EV charging equipment; develop recommendations for a statewide infrastructure plan; and, propose policies to promote the successful integration of EVs into Maryland’s communities and the transportation system.

As introduced, HB 480 would prohibit a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle that is not an EV in a parking space that is designated for the use of an EV. In addition, HB 480 includes provisions about signage and ensuring compliance with relevant local and federal requirements.

ZEEVIC supports the intent of this bill. The Council’s legislative workgroup also recommends future consideration for how parking requirements at parking spaces designated for the use of an EV can be implemented consistently statewide. We look forward to reviewing future legislative efforts regarding electric vehicles.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Miller".

Kevin George Miller
Chair, Legislative Working Group
ZEEVIC

HB480 IndivisibleHoCoMD_Senate_Testimony_FAV_Mich

Uploaded by: Loll, Michael

Position: FAV



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

Testimony before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

April 1, 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 480*** to ensure electric vehicle (EV) owners have access to public charging stations free of harassment.

As electric vehicles have become more popular over the course of the last decade, a practice known as “ICEing”, aka “internal combustion engine” vehicle parking in EV charging spots, has come into vogue. ICEing occurs when owners of gas fueled cars and trucks park in recharging spots with the express aim to prevent EV owners from recharging. Requests to move are often ignored. As far as we know, there are no studies done on the prevalence of ICEing in Maryland, although there are certainly anecdotal reports (<https://www.wheelsjoint.com/a-guy-blocking-ev-parking-spot-gets-confronted-in-baltimore-maryland/>, <https://www.plugshare.com/location/100810>). It is feared that this practice will become more widespread without proper legal restrictions.

There are laws in Maryland that prohibit ICEing, but only at local or county levels. We need legislation that covers the entire state in order to guarantee EV drivers opportunities to recharge at the limited number of stations Maryland has. In addition, in order to aid enforcement of a state wide law, charging spots need to be marked, with green pavement per the language of this bill, and included in the overall number of a lot’s parking spaces. It seems counterproductive for the state to encourage the purchase of EVs with excise tax credits, then not act to promote access to charging stations. This bill would produce consistency with the incentives Maryland now grants to its residents.

Thank you for your time and attention.

We encourage a favorable report.

Michael Loll
Columbia, MD

HB480 - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles-Reserved P

Uploaded by: Tulkin, Josh

Position: FAV



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: HB480 - “Vehicle Laws – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: April 1, 2021

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports HB480 that would prohibit a person from stopping, standing or parking a vehicle that is not a plug-in electric drive vehicle in a designated plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space. The bill also says that a person who violates this restriction may have his or her vehicle ticketed, towed or removed, and be subject to a civil penalty of \$100.

This is a reasonable proposal that would, if passed, enable more plug-in electric vehicles (EV) in our state to be used and recharged when parked. Approval of this bill also would have the effect of encouraging more people to purchase, lease or operate plug-in EVs and would reduce our dependence on petroleum.

Transportation is now the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in this country, and also a major source of toxic emissions including benzene, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide. Emissions from vehicle tailpipes are hazardous to human health and are linked to various cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases. Unlike conventionally-powered combustion engines, plug-in EV require little or no gasoline or diesel and emit little or no air pollution from their tailpipes.

More than 345,000 electric cars were sold in the U.S. last year, and 2.3 million were sold worldwide. Such growth demonstrates an ever-increasing number of consumers recognize the importance of driving plug-in vehicles. As more coal plants in this country are retired and clean, renewable sources of power are brought online, the emissions from utilities providing electricity that is used to recharge electric vehicles will continue to decline.

In summary, this bill contains a number of reasonable prohibitions and requirements that would encourage more electric car usage in our state, which would lessen air pollution and improve our environment. We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Brian E. Ditzler
Transportation Chair
Brian.Ditzler@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

HB480_2021_Lanny_Hartmann.pdf

Uploaded by: Hartmann, Lanny

Position: FWA

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