



Maryland PIRG

Maryland Public Interest Research Group

HB1146: Residential Construction - Electric Vehicle Charging Environment and Transportation Committee

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FAVORABLE

Maryland PIRG is a state based, small donor funded public interest advocacy organization with grassroots members across the state. For fifty years we've stood up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health and safety, our financial security, or our right to fully participate in our democratic society.

Environment Maryland is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We work to protect clean air, clean water, and open space.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are on the rise in Maryland. As more Marylands make the shift to electric vehicles, making sure that it's as easy to charge up your battery as it is to fill up your tank is crucial.

Each year, pollution from cars, trucks and other vehicles cuts short an estimated 58,000 lives in the United States, and increases the risk of lung cancer, stroke and heart disease. Transportation is also now Maryland's number one source of greenhouse gasses, with emissions from cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles surpassing every other source.

This bill will require some new townhouses and multifamily buildings to have communal electric vehicle charging states that are capable of level 2 charging and provide buyers the option to include electric vehicle charging in garage, carports for driveways. This is a good tool to enable the adoption of EVs in Maryland communities. This policy would not require businesses to install chargers on existing property – they would only apply to areas undergoing new construction or serious modifications.

Over the next 5 years, Maryland is set to receive [\\$63 million to build out EV charging stations](#) as part of the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Lack of charging is a well-known barrier to EV adoption. Nearly [80% of charging happens](#) at home or at the workplace, so for residents like renters without access to at-home charging, having alternative places to charge becomes essential.

Everyone benefits when more people are driving electric vehicles because EVs produce zero tailpipe pollution. More electric vehicles in Maryland will help reduce [air pollution](#) and lower our contribution to climate change. The trends for EV adoption are clear: Last year [EV sales skyrocketed](#) and more car companies are committing to [selling exclusively electric and zero emission vehicles](#) in the next decade.

At a time when we should be ramping up charging stations to meet the coming demand, HB1146 makes good sense. **To protect public health, combat climate change and prepare for the changing car market, we respectfully request a favorable report.**