



**First and Last Name, DoTheMostGood**

**Committee:** Budget and Taxation

**Testimony on:** HB0094 - State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero-Emission Passenger Cars and Other Light-Duty Vehicles

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** March 30, 2022

**Bill Contact:** Delegate David Frasier-Hidalgo

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members across all districts in Montgomery County as well as a number of nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports HB0094 because converting the state's passenger cars and light-duty vehicles to zero-emission vehicles is a necessary step in Maryland's fight against global warming and will increase healthy air for all Marylanders.

Emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) from burning fossil fuels is driving global warming and climate change. Climate scientists have issued increasingly urgent warnings over the past few years about the need to switch to non-emission technologies as quickly as possible to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. 70% of GHG pollution in Maryland comes from the transportation sector. The state must take active measures to reduce GHG emissions from transportation to meet our GHG reduction targets. The state's passenger car and light-duty vehicle fleet is sizable. Phasing in zero-emission vehicles as proposed in HB0094 will move Maryland toward significant reduction in GHG emissions from state vehicles and facilitate meeting the state's GHG reduction targets.

In 2013, Maryland joined seven other states in signing a memorandum of understanding committing to have 300,000 zero-emission vehicles (including plug-ins) on the road by 2025, and 600,000 EVs on the road by 2030. The state also has a goal it set for itself in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act to reduce state GHG emissions 40% (compared to the 2006 level by 2030. Passage of HB0094 will significantly increase the likelihood the state will be able to meet these goals.

In addition to the threat of climate change, air pollution from fossil fuel vehicles is a significant problem, particularly in metropolitan areas of the state. Tailpipe emissions from fossil fuel vehicles are hazardous to human health and contribute to cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases. More than 80% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet

federal clean air standards for ozone, due in significant part to tailpipe emissions. Changing state passenger and light-duty vehicles over to non-polluting zero emitters will help reduce the ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and particulate matter pollution that cause these respiratory illnesses.

Furthermore, phasing in zero-emission electric passenger and light-duty vehicles will also generate savings for the state over time since zero-emission electric vehicles have much lower fuel and maintenance costs than gas and diesel-powered vehicles.

Adoption of HB0094 will serve as a powerful example of Maryland's commitment to a greener future and cleaner air for all Marylanders. DTMG therefore strongly supports HB0094 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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