



HB94 – State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero–Emission Passenger Cars and Other Light–Duty Vehicles

Testimony before

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

March 30, 2022

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Tim Lattimer and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. IndivisibleHoCo is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB94** as passed by the House on February 17, 2022.

This bill requires the State to ensure that a certain minimum percentage of passenger cars and other light–duty vehicles purchased for the State vehicle fleet in certain fiscal years are zero–emission vehicles (ZEVs). This bill also requires the Department of General Services to ensure development of charging infrastructure to support operation of the State’s ZEVs. It further requires annual reporting by the Chief Procurement Officer on the ZEV purchase data as well as operational savings associated with ZEVs and an evaluation of charging infrastructure supporting State-owned ZEVs.

Humanity now faces a “code red” climate emergency. The combustion of fossil fuels is the primary cause of the climate crisis which already imperils the health, safety, prosperity, and well-being of Marylanders. Our state has already experienced severe impacts resulting from overall global warming of about 1.9F. To avoid catastrophic consequences, the scientific community warns that we must make dramatic cuts in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to reach “net zero” emissions by mid-century. To get there, we have to cut GHG emissions in half by 2030. This means broad and rapid electrification of our economy, including the replacement of fossil fuel-based vehicles with electric ones as soon as possible. HB94 is an important step in that direction, as it will help to transform Maryland’s unsustainable fossilized economy into one that is cleaner, more competitive, and sustainable. We therefore strongly support HB94.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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