



Transportation Alliance

February 24, 2022

**Testimony on SB 687 –
*Department of the Environment – Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy-Duty
Vehicles – Regulations (Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022)*
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports SB 687.

This proposed legislation would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2022. This rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing annual percentage of medium and heavy-duty vehicles including pickup, delivery, and semi-trucks as well as school buses between Model Year 2026 (for states that adopt in 2022) and 2035. These vehicles represent 10% of vehicles on the road but disproportionately contribute to 30% of carbon emissions, 45% of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

As a precursor to forming ground-level ozone, NOx emissions are especially impactful in the Baltimore metropolitan region because it is a non-attainment area under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standard for 8-hour ozone levels. Being a non-attainment area means that ozone levels exceed those set by the EPA through its National Ambient Air Quality Standards. High concentrations of ground-level ozone are a major environmental and health concern. Breathing ozone can scar lung tissue, reduce lung function, and trigger chest pain, coughing, and congestion, as well as worsen asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema.

This legislation would help Maryland follow through on its commitment for 30% of all medium and heavy-duty vehicles sales to be electric by 2030 and could create high quality green jobs in the process. Maryland would also be included in the growing number of states adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We encourage a favorable report on SB 687.