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BILL NO.: **SB 61**

TITLE: Maryland Transit Administration – Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Zucker

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 15, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 61 - Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions). This legislation would establish training programs for state transit workers to operate and maintain zero-emission buses.

Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski has prioritized investments in sustainable infrastructure as the County works to replace all fleet passenger vehicles with hybrid and electric models, expand EV charger availability Countywide, and make other necessary changes to promote green government. In addition to these upgrades, the County is working to train its local workforces to meet new opportunities created by these investments. Maryland cannot transition to a sustainable future without a trained and ready workforce to support this initiative.

As the State scales up the procurement and use of zero-emission buses for public transit, Senate Bill 61 will train State workers to adapt to this change. This bill will reskill labor for the clean energy transition and provide jobs for residents of Maryland. This is critically important for the long term sustainability of Maryland's economic and environmental health.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 61. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.