

SB0061 - Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions)

Date: February 15, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Favorable

Victoria Venable, Maryland Director - Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **SB0061 - Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions)**. As we make efforts to decarbonize our transportation sector, our state actions must align with these goals while supporting our workers.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. We believe that the state government has a crucial role to play in mitigating climate change and should lead by example in all efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly important in the transportation sector, which is the leading emitter of greenhouse gases.

SB0061 builds off of legislation passed last session to transition the Maryland Transit Administration's fleet of 800 buses to zero-emission. This transition has started and this bill will not alter those goals or timelines. Instead, this bill provides additional protections to ensure that MTA's bus workers are not negatively impacted by the transition to zero-emission buses. SB0061 requires the MTA to:

- Provide training for its maintenance crews to learn how to operate on zero-emission buses, as well as the accompanying electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Establish registered apprenticeships and other labor management training programs for transitioning workers.
- Ensure that no current duties of state employees are transferred to contractors in relation to the zero-emission bus transition.
- Require any entity that operates or maintains a zero-emission bus on behalf of MTA to extend the same levels of protection for workers that MTA is required to.

We believe that this bill is an important policy addition to our efforts to decarbonize our transportation sector while protecting and uplifting workers. Thank you for your consideration of SB0061. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.