



516 N. Charles Street, Suite 312 - Baltimore, Maryland 21201

February 23, 2022

Testimony on SB 687 –

Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Position: Favorable

Transit Choices 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 toxic nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

The Advanced Clean Trucks rule presents an opportunity for state governments to accelerate medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle adoption and reduce climate and air pollution in their state. Larger commercial vehicles tend to have an outsized impact on air quality compared with light-duty vehicles because trucks, vans, and buses often are powered by diesel fuel and emit more carbon pollution. The harmful effects of that pollution and the poor air quality it causes are disparately experienced by low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, which tend to be disproportionately located in industrial areas or along highways with large concentrations of trucks and vans transporting freight. We must meet the challenges of air pollution and climate change head on and take steps to help reduce harmful fossil-fuel emissions from this significant part of the transportation sector.

Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, states other than California are not allowed to set their own emissions standards. However, states can choose to follow and adopt vehicle standards that California has enacted. Maryland first adopted California's clean car standards for personal vehicle electrification through legislative action in 2007. Maryland has the opportunity to enact

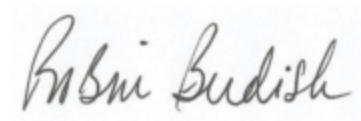
similar standards again and clean up large dirty diesel vehicles that continue to harm our health and exacerbate climate change.

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 California's standards, including Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Budish". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Robin Budish
Director

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