

February 24, 2022

Testimony on SB 687
Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/ Environment and Transportation

Position: Favorable

Larry Bannerman, lifelong resident of Turner Station, Md 21222

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 Turner Station Conservation Teams and our community have fought alongside port agencies as well as environmental agencies in an effort to reduce truck traffic and emissions. At one point in 2018, there was a mile long backlog of idling trucks on Broening Highway. Through technological advances and innovation, that backlog no longer exists. That was a huge success! The Port of Baltimore (MPA), Ecologix, and local port agencies, have invited our community to each iteration of Dray Truck replacements. We wholeheartedly support these efforts to reduce emissions.

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 the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

