



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SB61

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

2/15/2022

Testimony by Rev. Kathy Shahinian

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the committee, my name is Rev. Kathy Shahinian, Public Policy Liaison for the Episcopal Diocese of MD. The Maryland diocese represents 110 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners. The Episcopal Diocese of MD supports SB 61.

As we are called by God to care for creation, we support policies that protect the natural resources that sustain all life on Earth. The Episcopal Church calls for policies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable energy, the safe and just use of natural resources, and supports communities impacted by a lack of environmental stewardship.

A zero-emissions fleet benefits the community, riders, and employees by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. Additionally, the program aligns with broader environmental equity and social justice goals around Creation Care.

Our national church resolution 2018-D006- Call for Public Investment and Community Participation in Transition to New Economies supports the intention of SB61 by transitioning to a clean-energy economy that meets goals for climate change mitigation and includes support for good jobs. We encourage a favorable report.

General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 694-695.

