

**February 14, 2022**

**Testimony: SB126 - Environment - New Motor Vehicle - Pollution Fee**

**Organization: Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry**

**Submitting: Lee McNair, C0-Leader**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

**Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry recommends a FAVORABLE report on SB126, which imposes a modest, one-time pollution fee based on EPA ratings of carbon-dioxide tailpipe exhaust on new passenger vehicles and light trucks since such gas powered vehicles contribute greatly to Maryland's transportation GHG emissions.**

**These fees are intended, in this bill, to become rebates to Maryland residents who purchase electric vehicles. In addition, the fees will go toward the purchase of electric public transit buses and electric school buses as well as expanding electric infrastructure.**

**Transportation is Maryland's number one source of GHG emissions and we need to take every possible path to reducing these emissions for at least two reasons:**

- **such emissions reduce our chances of meeting our States emission reduction goals and**
- **tailpipe emissions have been documented as a hazard to human health especially to those communities living close to major highways which, all too often, means our poorer residents and often our residents of color.**

**Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry believes we have a duty to address the harms of climate change known to have been caused by human actions and exasperated by human inaction.**

**We further strongly feel it is a part of our duty to help heal and stop the harm historically inflicted on our less resourced communities and our black and brown residents.**

**This bill helps us address both those issues. We therefore support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.**

**We thank you for this opportunity to share our views and our vision of a better world with you.**