



Committee: Finance

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

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB126. This bill would impose a modest, one-time pollution fee based on the carbon dioxide tailpipe exhaust rating of new passenger vehicles and light trucks sold or registered in Maryland based on EPA pollution ratings. The bill further provides that those collected fees be used to provide rebates to Marylanders who purchase electric vehicles, to expand electric vehicle infrastructure, and to fund the purchase of electric public transit buses and school buses.

The transportation sector is Maryland's number one generator of climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions. Our state's Greenhouse Gas Inventory indicates that gasoline and diesel powered vehicles account for 89% of this pollution.

Tailpipe emissions from these vehicles also are hazardous to human health and contribute to cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases. More than 80% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet federal clean air standards for ozone, due in significant part to tailpipe emissions. Many black and brown communities in Maryland are particularly hard hit with health issues caused by tailpipe pollution due to the cumulative impact created by their proximity to major highways and roadways; and industry polluters such as the Wheelabrator incinerator, landfills, fossil fuel power plants, sub stations, and open coal transfer stations.

In 2013, Maryland joined seven other states in signing a memorandum of understanding committing to have 300,000 zero-emission vehicles (including plug-ins) on the road by 2025, and 600,000 EVs on the road by 2030. The state also has a goal it set for itself to reduce state greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 (compared to the 2006 level).

This bill makes even the most polluting vehicles part of the solution to expanding the use of electric vehicles by imposing a fee on those vehicles and then putting those collected fees in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) and dedicate those fees to incentivize the purchase of electric vehicles, electric school buses, and electric public transportation buses, and to expand the electric vehicle infrastructure. The fee is imposed on each new motor vehicle sold or registered in the State with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Greenhouse Gas Rating](#) equal to or higher than the minimum pollution level of 400 Co2 (gm/mile). Those fees range from \$250 to \$450. The bill exempts commercial vehicles for transporting goods, agricultural vehicles, public transportation, ambulances, and local government vehicles that are not used as passenger vehicles.

The bill is smart policy to both disincentive the purchase of high polluting vehicles and to make those vehicles part of the solution to expand the use of electric vehicles.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

MLC Climate Justice Wing:

Assateague Coastal Trust
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement

Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee
HoCo Climate Action
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/
National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy
Casa de Maryland
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Laurel Resist
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
Wicomico NAACP
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project

Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign
Labor for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Talbot Rising
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee