



Committee: Education Health & Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB0061 - Maryland Transit Administration-Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions) Standards Act of 2022)
Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0061. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB0061.

Last year, the General Assembly passed the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act. This bill, SB61, revises that Act to ensure that as the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) transitions to zero-emission buses, that it be a fair transition for the MTA labor force.

As we transition to a green economy and strive towards achieving our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, it is critical that we do so fairly and that workers benefit by the transition rather than be adversely affected. Bus operators and maintenance workers are integral to the success of Maryland's transit system.

Therefore, SB0061 requires that MTA provides safety and workforce development training for operations and maintenance workers for the zero-emission bus transition. The training shall include registered apprenticeships and other labor management programs to ensure that workers are not adversely affected by the transition.

Importantly, the Administration shall be required to provide a transition plan for any State employees adversely affected by the conversion to other or similar employment within the Administration that has commensurate seniority, pay, and benefits, and that no duties or functions are transferred to a contracting entity as a result of the conversion, and ensuring that any entity that may operate or maintain the zero-emission buses provide employee protections equivalent to the protections required by the transition plan. Further, the Administration shall be required to certify that it is adhering to the plan.

Please 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
Clean Water Action
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 People's Campaign
Labor Network 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
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee