

BILL: SB0126
TITLE: Environment – New Motor Vehicles -Pollution Fee
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/15/2022
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
SPONSOR: Senator Ben Kramer

I am writing to express our strong support for SB0126, the [New Motor Vehicle - High Pollution Fee bill](#).

The bill would reduce harm to our environment and provide essential funding for the transition away from the burning of fossil fuels, which is the leading cause of climate change. It would also protect children, elders, and other vulnerable populations from the particulate matter that high polluting vehicles emit.

Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is a significant contributor to illness and death from heart disease, asthma, other lung diseases, and cancer. The particulates in air pollution can also threaten pregnant women and the health of their babies. [Recent research](#) has shown that even small increases in exposure to particulates in the air increases the risk of death from Covid-19.

Revenue from the fee will provide rebates for the sale of electric vehicles, the purchase of electric transit and school buses, and the expansion of Maryland's electric vehicle infrastructure.

For these reasons and more, we urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0126.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wharton
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Cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs