

Testimony on HB507
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 16, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. My name is Delegate Susie Proctor. I am here today in support of HB 507, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Environmental Justice Consideration.

The purpose of HB 507 is to ensure that environmental justice guidelines be part of the decision matrix for any State-funded development of electric vehicle charging stations. Including environmental justice guidelines as one of the criteria in siting decisions will ensure that low-income and disadvantaged communities receive their fair share of state-funded infrastructure projects.

In a survey of public charging stations across Maryland, there is a stark disparity across neighborhoods. For example, Charge Hub, an electric charging station clearinghouse indicates that while there are 79 public charging stations in Bethesda, there are only 15 in Waldorf. Similarly, while there are 45 public charging stations in Bowie, there is only 1 in LaPlata.

Ensuring the application of environmental justice guidelines as one of the siting criteria for any State-funded development of electric vehicle charging stations is particularly timely. The federal infrastructure package allocated \$7.5 billion to

the states for the installation of new charging stations. This legislation, with the assistance of and input from the State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, will help guide how Maryland decides to use our share of this money.

The importance of charging station equity was echoed by Vice-President Harris when she visited Brandywine, Maryland this past December to promote the infrastructure bill. One of the largest impediments to a greater embrace of electric vehicles is no longer just about the cost of the car - it is about how to charge the vehicle when there is no access to home-based charging stations.

In conclusion, this legislation represents an important step to make sure that all communities can participate in the economy of the future.

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to address your questions.