

February 25,2022

Testimony on HB 829
Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022
Environment & Transportation

Position: Favorable

Joseph Tumfour supports HB 829.

This proposed legislation would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2022. This rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing annual percentage of medium and heavy duty vehicles including pickup, delivery, and semi trucks as well as school buses between Model Year 2026 (for states that adopt in 2022) and 2035. These vehicles represent 10% of vehicles on the road but disproportionately contribute to 30% of carbon emissions, 45% of toxic nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

This proposed legislation provides necessary steps that need to be taken to improve the many environmental issues that plague not only disadvantaged communities in Maryland, but the state of Maryland as a whole. I've had the honor and privilege to collaborate with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) during my time at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where I was tasked from one of my courses to partner with community organizations and provide solutions and strategies to public health problems. With the guidance from the CCAN, my classmates and I were able to create factsheets targeting middle schoolers, high schoolers, and stakeholders respectively, and awareness about how heavy duty vehicles contribute to generating air pollutants such as particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. There are unfortunate health effects, such as pediatric asthma, that can be mitigated if the Advanced Clean Truck rule is in motion.

Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, states other than California are not allowed to set their own emissions standards. However, states can choose to follow and adopt vehicle standards that California has enacted. Maryland first adopted California's clean car standards for personal vehicle electrification through legislative action in 2007. Maryland has the opportunity to enact similar standards again and clean up large dirty diesel vehicles that continue to harm our health and exacerbate climate change.

This legislation would help Maryland follow through on its commitment for 30% of all medium and heavy duty vehicles sales to be electric by 2030 and could create high quality green jobs in the process. Maryland would also be included in the growing number of states adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

