



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

House Bill 94

State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Passenger Cars and Other Light-Duty Vehicles

Date: January 18, 2022

Position: Support

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 94 which proactively phases in the electrification of the state's vehicle fleet and the development of charging infrastructure to support that fleet.

Vehicle emissions have negative consequences on the environment that Marylanders love dearly and depend upon. More than one-third of the Nitrogen pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay comes from emissions first to air. When transferred into the watershed, particles of nitrous oxides become nitrates which drive algae blooms and depress dissolved oxygen. The Bay is also greatly threatened by climate change, including warming temperatures, sea level rise, and increased precipitation all linked to other greenhouse gases from the transportation sector. By transitioning the fleet of State vehicles, Maryland is taking active steps to reduce air pollution and climate change, thus quickening the results of Bay cleanup efforts.

Harm to the Bay is also a social justice issue. Many families and businesses rely on healthy water for their livelihoods—including recreation, tourism and hospitality, and fishing—and any financial setbacks linked to pollution affect the most vulnerable populations most intensely. Electric vehicles are a reliable and cost-effective counter to these impacts. The transition can also act as a catalyst for conversations around electrification and the need to de-carbonize energy sources necessary to implement the state's *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan*.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has been laboring for the health of the Bay since 1967. Our members have a deep connection to the Bay, the natural environment, and the health of our beautiful state. We trust the advice that scientists give us: electrify as much as we can as quickly as we can, and power it through clean and renewable energy, like wind and solar. Electrifying the state fleet is a great step forward to create a cleaner and more resilient Maryland. We cannot have a healthy and thriving community without a healthy and thriving Bay.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 94.

For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.