



TO: Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 829 - Department of the Environment – Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles – Regulations (Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022)
DATE: February 25, 2021

MEA Position: Letter of Information

It is likely that **House Bill 829 will put Maryland businesses at an economic disadvantage when compared to their counterparts in surrounding states.**

The bill will require the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations establishing sales requirements for the sale of zero-emission, medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) vehicles in Maryland, and permissively incorporates the California standards. Those standards require an escalating percentage of sales to be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). While these are laudable goals, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) notes that one aspect of Maryland's unique geography is its limited footprint. **A person seeking to purchase a MHD vehicle can very easily do so in a neighboring state**, as it seems unlikely that each of those states will adopt similar regulations.

MEA strongly supports the development of markets for the adoption of ZEVs including MHD vehicles, as evidenced by its existing Clean Alternative Fuels Program and its departmental bill, the TEAM Act, that is before this committee.

Until a time where there is greater parity between Maryland and its neighbors, it may be appropriate for the state to reject mandates and continue to pursue incentives for MHD ZEV adoption.

MEA asks the committee to consider these remarks when rendering its report.