



## **HB157 – Vehicle Laws - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles - Reserved Parking Spaces**

**Testimony before**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**January 25, 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Brian Wessner, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB157**, to provide RESERVED parking spaces for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the State. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Chairman Barve in moving this bill.

Fifteen states have already identified this as an important issue and passed laws designating these spaces as reserved for the charging of EVs. Enacted legislation by these states supports over 725,110 registered electric vehicles – from North Dakota with only 220 registered EVs to California with over 425,000 registered EVs. These laws include guidance for signage and markings, and identify penalties for any violations. Penalties include fines as high as \$350, vehicle towing at the owners expense, or both.

The number of registered EVs in Maryland has more than doubled – from 17,970 in December of 2020 to 40,587 as of November of 2021, in spite of the pandemic. MDOT projects there will be 790,000 EVs in Maryland by 2030 – with ownership extending to a large portion of Maryland voters.

EV owners depend on availability of charging stations, just as owners of gas powered vehicles depend on the availability of gas stations. Consider the public reaction if owners of gas powered vehicles could not refill their tanks should access to gas stations be blocked for any reason.

A fiscal analysis conducted by the General Assembly during the 2021 session determined that the costs associated with signage and other markings for these reserved spaces would be offset by the revenue from fines included in this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

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