



TO: Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 507 - Environment - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Environmental Justice Considerations
DATE: February 16, 2022

MEA POSITION: FWA

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) appreciates the intent of the sponsor. However, this bill would significantly impact an existing and successful program within MEA. MEA's proposed amendment will maintain the general intent of the sponsor, while protecting a well-established and successful state program.

MEA has long operated a statutory rebate program that incentivises the purchase and installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE); in other words, EV chargers. The EVSE program rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The language of HB 507 would force MEA to operate the program on a competitive basis in order to prioritize certain applicants. This would delay payment for applicants significantly, often several months.

Program funding has made it so that all, or nearly all, rebate applications are typically fulfilled each fiscal year. Therefore, a competitive structure would be very unlikely to produce a significantly different outcome. It would, however, **cause significant delays** in payment of rebates, and create administrative inefficiencies within the program and MEA.

MEA asks the committee to **adopt the following clarifying amendment** prior to issuing its report.

MEA Recommended Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1 in line 6, after the semicolon insert "**EXEMPTING A CERTAIN PROGRAM FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS;**"

On page 1 in line 17, before "ANY" insert "**(A)**".

On page 1 after line 21, insert

" **(B) SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO REBATES OFFERED UNDER SECTION 9-2009 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**"