



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Re: House Bill 507 - Environment - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Environmental Justice Considerations**

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed HB 507 entitled *Environment - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Environmental Justice Considerations* and would like to provide information on the current bill.

The bill requires any unit of state government, which develops electric vehicle charging infrastructure, or administers public funding for that infrastructure development, “use environmental justice guidelines when selecting communities for the development.” While there are currently no “environmental justice guidelines” in state statute or regulations, MDE’s evaluation process to determine project funding for any publicly accessible electric vehicle charging project includes a list of scoring criteria. One of the key scoring criteria is the proposed environmental justice impact of the project. Applicants are required to describe how the project would serve overburdened or environmental justice communities. Since these impacts can sometimes be difficult to determine or define, MDE requires the use of established federal tools such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s EJSCREEN tool and/or the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Zones Mapping Tool, to support their benefits and analysis. The use of these established and recognized tools allows MDE to compare multiple projects using a systematic comparison. In addition to these tools, MDE does allow additional support material that can be used to help better define the environmental justice impacts.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 507 during the committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott".

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Susie Proctor  
George “Tad” Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration