



## **HB 1391 Clean Cars Act**

### **Testimony before**

### **Environment and Transportation**

**March 11, 2022**

### **Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of HB1391. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the contribution of Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo and others on this bill.

The transportation sector is the largest and fastest-growing source of climate disrupting pollution in Maryland. The vehicle emissions - which include cars, buses, trucks, planes, trains, ships, and freight—produce approximately 38 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Tailpipe emissions from gas and diesel-powered vehicles are the largest source of health damaging pollution, responsible for 1 in 5 childhood asthma cases and are linked to various cancers, heart disease, emphysema and other respiratory diseases that may lead to premature death.

Many Marylanders are doing their part to reduce fossil fuel emissions by swapping out gas-powered vehicles for electric ones, but progress is insufficient. Maryland has announced a goal of registering 300,000 electric vehicles by 2025. Currently there are approximately 36,000 electric vehicles. To motivate citizens, the Clean Cars Act is not only essential but popular. For the initial bill, the state dramatically underestimated how many residents would take advantage of the Clean Car tax incentive program. The program was such a success it was quickly depleted. The program's impressive depletion means that it's successful! Funding for this useful program should be continued with ample revenues available. It is a proven motivator with a definitive impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**We respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0783.**

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