

February 25, 2022

Testimony on House Bill 829
Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022
House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support House Bill 829 to join other states in adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule for Maryland.

Air quality, like other aspects of the environment, has a significant impact on the health of our communities. Public infrastructure, and environmental hazards (including factors such as traffic congestion and truck-routing) often have disproportionate effects on low-income communities and communities of color.

The Advanced Clean Truck Rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing annual percentage of medium and heavy-duty vehicles including pickup, delivery, and semi-trucks as well as school buses between Model Year 2026 (for states that adopt in 2022) and 2035. These vehicles represent 10% of vehicles on the road but disproportionately contribute to 30% of carbon emissions, 45% of toxic nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, states other than California are not allowed to set their own emissions standards. However, states can choose to follow and adopt vehicle standards that California has enacted. Maryland first adopted California's clean car standards for personal vehicle electrification through legislative action in 2007. Maryland has the opportunity to enact similar standards again and clean up large dirty diesel vehicles that continue to harm our health and exacerbate climate change.

This legislation would help Maryland follow through on its commitment for 30% of all medium and heavy-duty vehicles sales to be electric by 2030 and could create high quality green jobs in the process. Maryland would also be included in the growing number of states adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We urge you to give House Bill 829 a favorable report.