

February 23, 2022

Testimony on HB 829
Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Position: Favorable

Richard Reis, 103 W 39th St Apt A2, Baltimore MD 21210, supports HB 829

This proposed legislation would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2022. This 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.

This pollution is personal as my wife and I live in Baltimore, a city burdened by high levels of pollution. There is significant truck traffic in front of our condominium. My daughter's family with her husband and their 2 young sons live very nearby and are affected by this pollution. My grandsons ride school buses emitting diesel pollution.

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 worsen 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 California's standards, including Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

I encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.