



Committee: Environment & Transportation

Testimony on: HB0010 - Maryland Transit Administration-Conversion to Zero-Emission Buses (Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act Revisions) Standards Act of 2022)

Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 20, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0010. Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee is a grassroots organization that advocates for local and state climate legislation. We urge you to vote favorably on HB0010.

Last year, the General Assembly passed the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act. This bill, HB010, revises that Act to ensure that as the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) transitions to zero-emission buses, that it be a fair transition for the MTA labor force. As we transition to a green economy and strive towards achieving our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, it is critical that we do so fairly and that workers benefit by the transition rather than be adversely affected. Bus operators and maintenance workers are integral to the success of Maryland's transit system.

Therefore, HB0010 requires that MTA provides safety and workforce development training for operations and maintenance workers for the zero-emission bus transition. The training shall include registered apprenticeships and other labor management programs to ensure that workers are not adversely affected by the transition.

Importantly, the Administration shall be required to provide a transition plan for any State employees adversely affected by the conversion to other or similar employment within the Administration that has commensurate seniority, pay, and benefits, and that no duties or functions are transferred to a contracting entity as a result of the conversion, and ensuring that any entity that may operate or maintain the zero-emission buses provide employee protections equivalent to the protections required by the transition plan. Further, the Administration shall be required to certify that it is adhering to the plan.

Please support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

