



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 2/2/2022
RE: HB0046 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Not Subject to Inspection – Fee

The MLLC supports HB0046 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Not Subject to Inspection – Fee

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0046.

According to Hispanic Access Foundation Latinos are 165% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of particulate matter pollution, and 51% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone than are non-Hispanic whites. As emissions from the transportation sector currently account for the largest percentage of greenhouse gas emissions in the country (29%) (Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions | US EPA), it is imperative that we decrease greenhouse gas emissions and hold polluters accountable.¹

This bill charges certain vehicles that are exempt from vehicle emissions testing the same fee that it costs at a VEIP station (\$14) every two years. Money collected from this fee will be deposited into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to go towards providing rebates on the sale of electric vehicles, purchasing electric transit and school buses, and expanding electric vehicle infrastructure. Low-income households, including those in underrepresented communities and in disadvantaged communities could benefit from transportation electrification.²

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0046. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support