



Written Testimony in Support of SB 0104
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

CCAN is in full support of this bill.

Solving the climate crisis can feel complicated and overwhelming, but in reality there are two simple and achievable steps to eliminating all our energy sector emissions:

Step 1) Power our electric grid with 100% clean renewable energy

Step 2) electrify everything, and that is where Senator Kramers bill has an important role to play.

I want to thank the Senators for making critical progress towards step 1 by passing the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act which saved our in-state solar industry, brought steel jobs back to Baltimore, lowered energy costs, and improved the quality of the air we breathe. We still need to require 100% clean electricity by 2035, but that is a question for another day.

SB 0104 would play an important role in step 2, electrifying everything. Both nationally and in Maryland transportation is the number 1 source of greenhouse gas emissions. We can eliminate those emissions by transitioning to all electric vehicles.

To be clear, people want electric cars because they are better products. They can power your home for days if the power goes out. They can allow you to adjust the temperature inside the car while the car is stationary without idling. They are safer, and they generally have more features that consumers want. They are simply better products.

However, In the US National, state, and local governments have made it harder for people to adopt electric vehicles by putting a tremendous amount of resources and effort into building out the oil infrastructure in this country. The federal government subsidized the building of gas stations through tax breaks. Imminent domain has been used to establish pipelines to transport our oil. Because gas cars pollute so much they require local governments to build out massive operations to monitor and test vehicle emissions, and governments at all levels have looked the other way as oil refineries have poisoned communities of color.

SB 0104 takes some of the first steps to use government resources to build out a better future, an all electric, zero emission future, instead of a dirty fossil fuel one. This is a necessary step because one reason people cite for not buying an electric vehicle is a lack of charging stations. While this concern is shrinking as the range of electric vehicles grows ever longer, it is true that we will need more electric charging stations. It can be harder to turn a profit through a charging

station than a gas station because electricity is cheaper than gas, and unlike gas, drivers have the option of charging from home if the price at the station is too high. For these reasons the government has an essential role to play in building out the public infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Vehicles that are exempted from participating in emission monitoring programs are currently being subsidized by the government. My taxes pay for my trash to be picked up every week, but these vehicles have been throwing their toxic trash into the air we breathe and not paying for the clean up. This policy would simply be removing a subsidy that the state is currently giving to internal combustion engines and using the resulting surplus to further deploy electric vehicles.

This is sound policy and would reduce our contribution to the climate crisis, improve our air quality, save consumers money, and allow more people to own much cooler cars.

Jamie DeMarco
CCAN Action Fund
6930 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park MD
443-845-5601