

February 9, 2022

Testimony on Senate Bill 224
Clean Trucks Act of 2023
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1500 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 224 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.**

Trucks and other large vehicles account for 9% of vehicles on the road but **contribute 21% of carbon pollution and 48% of particulate matter pollution (PM2.5)** emitted by the entire transportation sector in Maryland. People who are heavily exposed to PM2.5 and other toxic truck emissions like nitrogen oxides are at a greater risk for developing asthma and other lung diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer.

To help meet its long-term climate, air quality, and public health goals, Maryland should pass legislation to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Rule. The rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing percentage of new zero-emission trucks and school buses through 2035. By requiring the electrification of school buses and large pickup, delivery, drayage, and semi-trucks, the Advanced Clean Truck Rule is a critical tool in the effort to combat toxic air pollution that makes us sick and contributes to climate change.

The Clean Trucks Act of 2023 would require the Maryland Department of Environment to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck Rule by the end of 2023. The rule requires vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing annual percentage of zero-emission trucks and school buses that varies by size beginning in Model Year 2027. The rule increases sales targets at a pace that is gradual and technologically feasible.

The Advanced Clean Truck rule has a one-time reporting requirement for all fleets. The collected data will help identify areas with high rates of freight traffic and consequently, diesel pollution. In 2022, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change included a recommendation in its annual report that Maryland adopt the Advanced Clean Truck Rule.

We urge you to give Senate Bill 224 a **favorable report**