



516 N. Charles Street, Suite 312 - Baltimore, Maryland 21201

February 9, 2023

Testimony on SB 224
Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

Transit Choices supports **SB 224**.

This proposed legislation would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2023. 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 2027 (for states that adopt in 2023) and 2035. 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.

Pollution created by gasoline engines is widely understood by the medical community to cause premature deaths and asthma attacks. One in 13 Americans live with asthma, and millions of Americans who have had the coronavirus may suffer from long-term respiratory complications.

Carbon pollution from cars is also a leading cause of the climate crisis that has been driving catastrophic storms, wildfires, heat waves, and droughts.

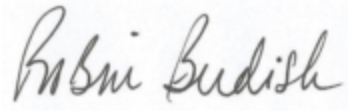
By moving aggressively now, we can help save Americans from the dire health and economic impacts of the climate crisis.

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. In November 2022, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommended that Maryland adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule in its annual report. Maryland has the opportunity to enact similar standards again and clean up large dirty diesel vehicles that continue to harm our health and exacerbate 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 the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Washington, and Oregon.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Budish". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Robin Budish
Director

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