



HB834 – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Requirements 3 (Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability Act)

Testimony before

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 28, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mdm. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB834**, which would expand the EV Pilot Program into underserved communities. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo in sponsoring this important legislation.

Maryland is currently in an accelerated transition to electric vehicles (EVs). The Inflation Reduction Act, as well as Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act, ensure that this transition will continue strongly in the coming years. To support that, there is an existing program to allow the states' electric utilities to install and operate EV charging in multi-family (MF) neighborhoods. It is well known that adding electric vehicle charging to existing MF communities is one of the keys to mass adoption. However, frontline, underserved and overburdened communities are often EV charging deserts, with few nearby options for residents to charge their vehicles. This will become a critical issue in the coming years, especially as the late-model EV market continues to develop. These communities are often suffering the worst of the burdens from our transportation choices, while enjoying few of the benefits. HB834 simply expands this existing program to encourage utilities to provide this service in underserved communities. It also requires a high level of operational reliability, to ensure that this service is well maintained for residents' use.

For these reasons, we support HB834.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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