



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE ENERGY, EDUCATION, and the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 224 Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles - Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng – President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports proposed legislation SB 224 as it will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and helps to promote a cleaner environment. We have similar standards for passenger cars and it is important for the state to have requirements for the sale of other heavier vehicles.

The reasons LWVMD favors this bill are multiple:

1. By requiring all fleets to meet a reporting requirement we help to actually identify areas with high freight traffic and therefore we help to identify areas with diesel pollution.
2. This is a cost saving and health saving measure by helping to avoid more cases of respiratory illness like asthma in the long term.
3. By helping Maryland meet the requirements for cleaner air with larger vehicles, we help the state to meet our own state environmental standards.
4. Technology is now available to supply the sales of environmentally friendly zero and low emission fleets and more vehicles will be coming on the market in coming years.
5. Gradual implementation of sales of cleaner vehicles is built into the bill and guidelines are concrete.

We know that trucks, buses, and heavier commercial vehicles have a large impact on air quality and impacts all who are exposed. Multiple states have taken action already and it's time for Maryland to pass this bill to require medium and heavy-duty trucks to raise sales standards and codify a timeline of implementation.

LWVMD urges a favorable report on SB 224.