



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB224

Department of Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy Duty Vehicles - Regulations
Clean Trucks Act of 2023

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

February 9, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB224, Department of Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy Duty Vehicles - Regulations, or the Clean Trucks Act of 2023.** CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 120,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families.

SB224 is important legislation that will address the large amounts of air pollution heavy-and medium-duty trucks produce by requiring the sale of electric versions of these vehicles. In particular, CASA members and communities of color are exposed to the negative effects of transit related air pollution, and this bill will support those communities in reducing local pollution.

Maryland Department of the Environment data¹ in 2020, indicated that 45 metric tons of CO2 emissions, which is 21% of the entire transportation sector's emissions, are produced by medium- and heavy- duty vehicles. Even though these vehicles represent about 9% of all vehicles, their pollution is proportionately higher than light vehicles. The same report emphasizes the opportunity to transition a small sector of the vehicles and receive a major reduction in emissions. The Union of Concerned Scientists outlines the tangible inequities in vehicle emissions here in Maryland²:

“Looking at the state as a whole, African Americans are exposed to 12 percent higher PM2.5 concentrations from on-road transportation than the average PM2.5 exposure for all Marylanders. Latinos experience concentrations 11 percent higher than the average resident. At the same time, white residents have an average exposure that is 8 percent lower than the average for the state.”

From communities in Hyattsville to Silver Spring to Baltimore City, highly transited and congested routes run right through our living space. CASA urges a favorable report.

Jose Coronado-Flores

Research and Policy Analyst

jcoronado@wearecasa.org, 240-393-7840

¹ <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/workwithmde/Documents/AQCAC/2021MeetingMaterials/AQCAC%20CARB%20FINAL.pdf>

² <https://blog.ucsusa.org/cecilia-moura/air-pollution-from-vehicles-maryland/>