



February 7, 2023

Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB230 Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles -  
Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)**

**Position: Favorable**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee:

Nikola Corporation appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB230, Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles - Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023). This measure requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt, by reference, California's Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule by December 1, 2023. As a company committed to decarbonizing heavy transport, we believe the aggressive standards set by the ACT rule will go a long way toward advancing Maryland's objectives regarding greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, improving air quality, and ensuring a just transition with green, equitable, high-quality jobs for Maryland residents.

GHG emissions from transportation account for about 28 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, with commercial trucks playing a key role contributing 23% of the total carbon emissions from the transportation sector, following passenger vehicles<sup>1</sup>. The transportation sector is Maryland's largest source of GHG emissions, accounting for more than 24% of carbon emissions in the state.<sup>2</sup>

As a global leader in zero-emission transportation and energy supply and infrastructure solutions, Nikola firmly believes that the electrification of medium and heavy-duty vehicles in the transportation sector is critical to reducing carbon emissions. Nikola and other manufacturers in the sector stand ready, with numerous zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicle and charging offerings available

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/fast-facts-transportation-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Pages/GreenhouseGasInventory.aspx>



now. Nikola began serial production of the Tre BEV in March 2022. The Tre BEV is a cabover battery electric truck for short-haul metro-regional applications with a maximum range of up to 330 miles. The company expects to begin delivery of its longer-range hydrogen fuel cell truck, the Tre FCEV, in quarter 4 of 2023, and recently announced the creation of a new global brand, HYL A, Nikola's recently launched hydrogen energy brand, to encompass the company's energy products for producing, distributing, and dispensing hydrogen.

Nikola is committed to growing its zero-emission transportation and infrastructure operations in Maryland, with the support of our local dealer, Ethero. The adoption of California's ACT will play a critical role in cultivating and accelerating market and fleet adoption of zero-emission truck technology. Moreover, if Maryland adopts the ACT rule, the state will be well-positioned to build a market centered around the transition to clean fuels, improving public health, and will also help the state achieve its climate goals in a timely manner.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and urge a favorable report on HB230.

Thank you,

Will Higgins

State and Local Affairs Manager, Eastern US

Nikola Corporation