



HB830 – Residential Construction or Significant Renovation – Electric Vehicle Charging

**Testimony before
House Environment and Transportation Committee**

February 28, 2023

Position: Favorable

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today to **support SB477**, requiring the installation of electric vehicle [EV] charging infrastructure during the construction or significant renovation of certain housing units and increasing the number of electric vehicle parking spaces under certain circumstances. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Delegate Terrasa in sponsoring this bill.

For environmental and health reasons, Maryland should be hastening the transition from internal combustion vehicles to EVs. However, one of the obstacles for this transition is charging infrastructure. Fred Meier's cars.com article, "Do I Need a Home Charger to Own an Electric Car?", replies to the question in the title with, "The answer for now (and for the foreseeable future) is probably yes.... By home charging, we mean a Level 2 charger (...) that you control...." Many Marylanders will require access to EV charging at their homes to be willing to switch to owning an EV. SB477 is a step towards upgrading Maryland housing for EVs, especially town houses and multifamily residences.

I currently live in a town house with off street communal parking and without access to EV charging. My town home owner association currently does not have plans to install EV charging. However, with the passage of this bill, if the association needed a parking upgrade involving trenching in or around parking spaces, the association would be required to install EV charging, which would make it much more likely that my next car, and probably many of my neighbors, would be an EV.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. **We respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.**

Ruth Auerbach, PhD
9455 Clocktower Lane
Columbia, MD 21046