



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

House Bill 230

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

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 230 requires the Department of Environment to adopt California's Air Resources Board Vehicle Standards by December 1 of this year. These regulations will establish requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles (ZEV) in the state. Under this, auto manufacturers will be required to produce a certain number of ZEVs each year. That number is based on the total number of cars sold in California by the manufacturer.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce understands the goal of this legislation and many of our members are working toward emission reduction goals. However, ZEV truck adoption is a very complex process and requires cooperation across key stakeholders. ZEV trucks use completely different chargers and there are zero public charging stations as of today. The batteries are 5x more expensive and the chargers are 4x more expensive. Additionally, successful deployment of ZEV trucks requires cooperation between manufacturers of both the vehicles and chargers, energy providers, component suppliers and dealerships. Lastly, preparation for such an endeavor will take, at minimum, 12 months.

Truck buying is a unique process, in that you don't buy a new truck off a dealer's lot. Instead, you work with a dealer on specifications and price, and they place an order from a manufacturer and then deliver the vehicle to the purchaser. Ultimately, many companies that require these trucks will take their business out of state to jurisdictions that are able to order what they need. As Maryland businesses continue to prepare for a potential economic recession, now is not the time to place added burdens and costs on our businesses.

With these concerns in mind, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on **HB 230**.