



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

HB 550

**Maryland Energy Administration – Energy Programs – Modifications (Clean Transportation and Energy Act)**

**House Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Economic Matters Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state’s second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 550 would alter the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Program by extending the duration of the Program, repealing the rebates that may be issued to retail service station dealers, and repealing the limitation on the total amount of rebates that the Maryland Energy Administration may issue in each fiscal year and would repeal a certain mandatory appropriation from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund for certain fiscal years; increasing the maximum amount of certain funds in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund that must be credited to an administrative expense account for a certain purpose. Finally, the bill would require the Administration to prioritize making certain loans and grants to benefit low-income or environmental justice communities.

As Pope Francis has written, climate change *“represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day”* (*Laudato Si’, no. 25*), threatening the wellbeing of peoples and the environment. Catholic social teaching envisions a sustainable and authentic human development, where technological solutions respect the principle of integral ecology and consider social, economic and ecological considerations.

House Bill 550 aims to address the much needed investment in renewable energy policies to be set to sustain and achieve a healthy global ecosystem. We encourage discussion around the components and goals outlined in this legislation and hope they are a catalyst for positive social and ecological outcomes.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for House Bill 550.