



House Bill 550

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation and
Economic Matters Committees

Date: February 23, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 550. This bill would extend Maryland's Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Program through 2026 – continuing a vital resource in county efforts to expand electrification resources and promote cleaner energy sources.

The Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Program is a critical part of county plans to expand access to electric vehicle infrastructure for all Marylanders. Under the program, counties can receive 40% of the cost of acquiring and installing qualified electric vehicle recharging equipment, up to \$4000. In the current environment of rising inflation and supply chain delays, this extra support has ensured continued momentum in the transition away from fossil fuel powered cars.

HB 550 extends the program through fiscal year 2026 and repeals the number of rebates the state may issue each year. Should the program be allowed to expire, any extra costs would be absorbed by county governments and likely slow further electrification projects that may no longer pass a cost/benefit analysis locally.

HB 550 extends a vital program in county efforts to expand electrification. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 550.