

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
and Members of The Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB0487-Low Emissions Vehicle Program-Prohibition (Affordable Emissions Standards Act 2023)

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee,

I urge you and your colleagues to present with a FAVORABLE REPORT for HB00487. While I have no objections to cleaner air and a healthier environment, I feel that the push for electric vehicles is premature and requires further investigation and REASONABLE consideration. Inasmuch as there are numerous positive reasons for the use of electric vehicles, I feel the following reasons deserve equal consideration:

- The current configuration of the state's power grid cannot handle the energy required to recharge and sustain such a large number of electric vehicles simultaneously. HB0230 references California's Air Resources Board's Vehicle Standards. However, it is important to recall that California residents were requested NOT to charge their electric vehicles during certain hours and the state issued rolling blackouts in order to prevent an energy overload.
- In addition, CA has experienced wildfires contribute to poorly maintained power grid.
- Due to the sparse location of EV chargers and the extended time required to recharge EV's, drivers must consider this when planning/scheduling their route. This strains the already stressful traffic schedule/driving conditions.
- Consideration for adoption of environmental regulations should be based upon Maryland's unique characteristics and not California or any other state. Maryland should analyze the economic impact on consumers and small businesses as well as the cost impacted on the state budget.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that I urge a FAVORABLE Report for HB0487.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sarah Price (ACRWC)
Westernport, MD