



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3051

February 23, 2023

Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT**: HB 550: Maryland Energy Administration – Energy Programs – Modifications (Clean Transportation and Energy Act)

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee,

I commend Governor Moore and his Administration for taking strong and immediate measures to prioritize our environment. Our shared commitment of championing initiatives that protect our environment has made Maryland a national model.

Howard County's rigorous investment and demonstrated leadership in the fight against climate change is why we are now a LEED Platinum community. This prestigious designation from the U.S. Green Building Council is due to our dedication to implementing environmental and sustainability programs that advance solar power, improve transit and electric vehicles, and build accessible and green infrastructure.

Last October, I signed an Executive Order that committed Howard County to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by the year 2031 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2045. These goals mirror the goals set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act, some of which are even slightly more stringent. Our goals are not just for government operations but for all of Howard County and the Clean Transportation and Energy Act will play a critical role in achieving them.

To help facilitate our communities transition to electric vehicles, the installation of publicly accessible infrastructure is of paramount importance. Over the last four years, we have installed 60 charging stations with 111 ports in public parking lots. Additionally, we have nine more charging stations with 18 ports scheduled to come online this year. We also have also considerably increased our electric vehicle fleet and anticipate purchasing additional ones as supply becomes available. Our investment has been a catalyst throughout the county and now, many retail and commercial owners have installed charging stations.

As far as we have come over the last few years, collectively, we have a long way to go, which is why Howard County strongly supports the extension of the electric vehicle recharging equipment rebate program, the improvement of the medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle grant program and the improvement to the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

As County Executive, I will continue to advocate for a clean and environment for generations to come and am proud to partner with the Moore Miller Administration to be environmental stewards of our land. I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on House Bill 550.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive