



SB224 Department of the Environment – Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles – Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)

**Testimony before
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
February 09, 2023
Position: Favorable**

Mister Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, my name is Peter Alexander and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. I am writing ***in support of SB224***, The Clean Trucks Act of 2023. We are grateful for the leadership of Chair Feldman and Senator Augustine for sponsoring this bill which was filed last year as SB687.

Transportation is Maryland's number one generator of greenhouse gas emissions which are causing global climate change. Trucks account for 10% of vehicles on the road but contribute 30% of carbon emissions and 57% of particulate matter (PM2.5) emitted by the entire transportation sector in the United States. Tailpipe emissions contribute to ozone and particulate (PM2.5) pollution resulting in failure to meet federal clean air standards for more than 80% of Maryland residents.

Fossil fuel-powered trucks are significant sources of pollutants other than greenhouse gases. Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants that in some cases can lead to decreased lung function and can cause and/or worsen diseases such as asthma and cancer.

The Clean Trucks Act of 2023 would require the Maryland Department of Environment to adopt California's Advanced Clean Truck Rule by the end of 2023. This rule requires all manufacturers that sell trucks in the state to sell an increasing annual percentage of zero-emission trucks, delivery vans, and school buses beginning in Model Year 2027. The rule increases sales targets at a pace that is gradual and technologically feasible.

If Maryland enacts the Clean Trucks Act, the state will avoid 7.2 million metric tons of cumulative carbon pollution between now and 2050, the equivalent of emissions created from nearly 8 billion pounds of coal being burned. Over 70 major companies have signed a letter urging governors across the country to accelerate the growth of clean trucks by adopting the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule.

Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington joined California in 2021 by adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, and more than a dozen other states have signed a joint memorandum of understanding committing to truck and bus electrification by 2050.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
15615 Camden Meadows Court
Woodbine, MD