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OPPOSE: HB487 - Environment - Low Emissions Vehicle Program - Prohibition

Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters is strongly opposed to HB487 - Environment - Low Emissions Vehicle Program - Prohibition which stands in direct opposition to the goals of reducing carbon emissions, especially from the transportation sector.

Clean Cars II would direct the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt the California-lead standard that requires vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of new zero-emission passenger cars and light-duty trucks starting in Model Year 2026 through 2035. By 2035, all new light-duty vehicle sales in states that have adopted the regulation must be for zero-emission vehicles and plug-in-hybrids. We oppose any attempts to impede or delay implementation of this regulation.

In 2022, Maryland passed the Climate Solutions Now Act that set ambitious but achievable goals of reducing our carbon emissions 60% by the year 2031. Key to reaching these goals is aggressively addressing pollution from the transportation sector, which is the single largest contributor to our greenhouse gas emissions. Ending our dependence on fossil fuels is key to meeting our climate goals, as well as improving the health of our communities that suffer increased negative health impacts due to their proximity to high-traffic roadways.

The Clean Cars II program is a priority of Maryland LCV. We strongly urge an unfavorable report on this bill which undermines the important work of this committee and the progress the state has made to its climate goals.