



Transportation Alliance

February 8, 2023

Testimony on HB 230 – *Clean Trucks Act of 2023* Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports HB 230.

We urge Maryland to swiftly adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule and Heavy-Duty Omnibus Rule to tackle climate change and improve public health. This bill would direct the Maryland Department of the Environment to do so.

We must now take swift action to make sure we are cutting pollution from the larger vehicles that continue to harm Marylander's health and contribute to the climate crisis. Exhaust from **diesel trucks and buses is a leading source of harmful air pollution** that sends countless Maryland residents to the hospital every year. Though medium- and heavy-duty trucks and buses make up only nine percent of the state's 4.2 million registered vehicles, they contribute a disproportionate 39 percent of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the state, 48 percent of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and 21 percent of global warming emissions from all on-road vehicles in the state. Residential neighborhoods located near major roads and highways face disproportionate burdens from traffic and transportation pollution. These neighborhoods are far more often communities of color due to decades of residential segregation, and bear a burden of unsafe pedestrian conditions, higher rates of asthma, and unremitting noise pollution. The harm to human health and the increasingly severe impacts to the climate demonstrate the magnitude of this problem and why it is so imperative to take steps now to address it.

To cut harmful air pollution and meet Maryland's new goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 60% from 2006 levels by 2031, Maryland must adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule (ACT) and the Heavy-Duty Omnibus rule (low NOx rule) as quickly as possible. **California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington state have already adopted these standards**— and many more states, including Connecticut, are actively considering it.

Adoption of ACT also presents a tremendous opportunity to create a significant amount of

high-quality manufacturing and installation jobs in our state. Deferring consideration and implementation of ACT in Maryland risks ceding ground as a priority market for Zero-Emission Medium-and Heavy-Duty Vehicles. If Maryland doesn't adopt these rules, we would likely lose out on the clean energy economy emerging in other states and the associated benefits. Please seize the opportunity to create good jobs, improve public health and protect future generations by adopting the ACT and low NOx rules.

We urge a favorable report.