

TESTIMONY FOR HB0230

Clean Trucks Act of 2023

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Love
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization Submitting: Lower Shore Progressive Caucus
Person Submitting: Jared Schablein, Chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0230 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

By December 1, 2023, this critical piece of legislation would mandate the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule. Between Model Years 2026 (for states that approve in 2022) and 2035, vehicle manufacturers must sell a growing annual percentage of electric medium and heavy-duty vehicles, including pickup, delivery, and semi-trucks as well as school buses. These vehicles make up 10% of the total number of vehicles on the road yet are responsible for 30% of the carbon emissions, 45% of the poisonous nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of the particulate matter that is harmful to human health that is produced by the whole transportation sector in the US.

Vehicle electrification must happen as rapidly as practical, although there are specific conditions that need to be met in order for this to happen. When they are able sell gas-powered vehicles, manufacturers are hesitant to retool their plants and produce electrified ones.

Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, states other than California are not allowed to set their own emissions standards. However, states can choose to follow and adopt vehicle standards that California has enacted. Maryland first adopted California's clean car standards for personal vehicle electrification through legislative action in 2007. Maryland has the opportunity to enact similar standards again and clean up large dirty diesel vehicles that continue to harm our health and exacerbate climate change.

This legislation would help Maryland follow through on its commitment for 30% of all medium and heavy-duty vehicles sales to be electric by 2030 and could create high quality green jobs in the process. Maryland would also be included in the growing number of states adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.