



TESTIMONY FOR SB0224

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Augustine

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0224 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

This important legislation would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2023. This rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing annual percentage of electrified medium and heavy-duty vehicles including pickup, delivery, and semi-trucks as well as school buses between Model Year 2026 (for states that adopt in 2022) and 2035. These vehicles represent 10% of vehicles on the road but disproportionately contribute to 30% of carbon emissions, 45% of toxic nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

We have to electrify vehicles as soon as possible, and that will not happen without some requirements for it to happen. Manufacturers are disinclined to re-tool their factories and sell electrified vehicles when they are able to sell gas-combustion vehicles.

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.

