

March 6, 2024

Favorable - HB 1028 — Business Regulation – Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment – Regulations for Retail Use

Mr. Chairman,

As an avid electric vehicle (EV) driver who frequently uses public charging stations, I am writing to support HB 1028, Business Regulation – Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment – Regulations for Retail Use.

Millions of public dollars have been invested in building EV charging infrastructure across Maryland to encourage residents to choose EVs. Yet, achieving this goal hinges on the reliability, affordability, and convenience of charging stations. Holding recipients of public funds accountable for both functionality and user experience is crucial.

A recent study by RateYourCharge¹ revealed a stark disparity in charger reliability. While Tesla excelled with a low 0.6% failed check-in rate, other providers displayed an alarming 13% failure rate, potentially leaving drivers stranded. Such inconsistencies are unacceptable and hinder EV adoption.

In an effort to contribute to solutions, I personally tested nearly 70 high-speed chargers in Maryland during August 2022. Disappointingly, only 71% functioned properly, with the remainder experiencing various issues like error messages, damaged connectors, and reduced power output. I reported these findings to the Maryland PSC to raise awareness of the issue.²

HB 1028 will establish uniform standards for EV charging providers in Maryland. This helps ensure consistent reliability and user experience. It will also foster confidence among potential EV owners. By eliminating concerns about unpredictable functionality, this legislation will significantly accelerate the transition to cleaner transportation in our state.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge a favorable report on HB 1028 and support this crucial step towards making electric vehicles a more viable option in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Lanny Hartmann
PlugInSites.org
Columbia, Maryland

¹ RateYourCharge - 2023 Year End Report <http://bit.ly/48AjSkc>

² PSC Case No. 9478 - Lanny Hartmann Comments. (ML 242263)