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SUPPORT: HB889 - Building Code - Construction and Significant Renovation of Housing Units - Electric Vehicle Parking Spaces

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB889 - Building Code - Construction and Significant Renovation of Housing Units - Electric Vehicle Parking Spaces.

In March 2023, Governor Moore announced that the State of Maryland would fully implement and enforce the multi-state Advanced Clean Cars II Rule. This puts Maryland on a path of achieving 100% statewide sales of electric cars and light duty vehicles by model year 2035. In order to reach these goals, we need to rapidly increase our electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the state.

Additionally, in December 2023, the Maryland Department of the Environment issued “Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan”, which lays out a roadmap for 60% net reduction in statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2031, and net-zero by 2045. The plan specifically recommends for the Maryland General Assembly to introduce legislation requiring that the state’s EV-ready standards for new residential construction be extended to include multi-family buildings. This would augment legislation passed by the Assembly in 2023 which codified similar requirements for new, single-family homes and duplexes in the state. The bill also has a phased approach, where the number of EV charging equipped parking spaces starts out modestly, and increases over the next 10 years.

HB889 directly supports the Clean Cars II Rule, as well as the state’s climate goals, by increasing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in an area of great need - multi-family housing. This will, in turn, help address the charging concerns of residents across the state, and encourage Marylanders to purchase electric vehicles in the near term. Having reliable EV charging at home has been identified in many studies as a key factor in consumers choosing to purchase electric vehicles for their personal use.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB 889.