



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB159 - Common Ownership Communities - Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment (Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Act of 2024)
Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 6, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB159. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB159.

HB159 is intended to remove barriers to installing electric vehicle (EV) recharging equipment in a condominium or homeowners association community, including recharging equipment for electric bicycles. The bill renders a cooperative housing corporation's recorded covenant or restriction void and unenforceable if it effectively prohibits or unreasonably restricts the installation or use of EV recharging equipment in a member's parking space or a parking space specifically designated for use by a particular member. If approval is required for the installation or use of EV recharging equipment, the governing body must process and review an application in the same manner as an application for an architectural modification, and may not willfully avoid or delay processing and reviewing the application. The bill makes it clear that the member who will use the EV equipment will bear the cost of installation and operation. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide relevant information on its common ownership community website.

As Maryland transitions to greater EV use, people living in common ownership communities should have access to charging equipment where they live. This bill clarifies the approval process by the cooperative housing corporation, makes it clear the homeowner bears the cost, and makes this information more publicly accessible.

These changes should facilitate the installation of EV recharging equipment for residents that have had difficulty in the past. Therefore, we strongly support HB159 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

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Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
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Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
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