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Legislative District 5
Carroll and Fredrick Counties

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Banking, Consumer Protection,
and Commercial Law

Property and Casualty Insurance

Unemployment Insurance

Chair

Carroll County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2024

Support House Bill 1240

Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles – Installation, Use, and Fees

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Committee Members,

This bill will prohibit the Department of the Environment, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the governing body of a county or municipality from prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas and propane-powered appliances that are new construction or undergoing a remodel or renovation of at least 50 percent of the square footage of the home.

In addition, the Motor Vehicle Administration may not collect any additional fees or charges for the title or registration of a gas-powered vehicle that is based on the use of gasoline.

I am concerned that the aggressive goals addressing climate change in Maryland could have an adverse effect on communities. Older neighborhoods - such as Randallstown and Catonsville to name two - were constructed in the late 1960s and are almost 100 percent serviced by natural gas. In the rural areas, many homes are serviced by propane.

Requiring a switch to full electrification will be expensive and especially difficult for families on a fixed income. Some estimates of the purchase and installation of a new high efficiency heat pump can cost as much as \$17,000. Additional concerns would be the rapid strain on our power grid and would result in higher costs to the ratepayers. Twenty-four other states have already adopted similar legislation to ensure homes and businesses can continue to access energy sources that work best for them.

We also need to recognize that the rush to all electric vehicles is not taking into consideration how the cars and trucks are performing and problems that have come to light. A recent study by AAA indicates EV's experience a significant reduction in range when loaded with heavy cargo. The Ford F-150 Lightning range decreased by 24.5 percent when carrying 1,400 pounds of sandbags, stopping just short of its maximum capacity. We also saw during this most recent winter the problems with very cold temperatures on the EV.

The EPA is considering slowing down requirements for automakers to sell more electric vehicles as are GM and Ford. Notably, Toyota has adopted "Electrification Diversified" recognizing that the way forward should include affordable and reasonable options. They will include battery electric, hybrids, plug in hybrids and fuel cell offerings. They state they can produce 93 hybrids for the cost of producing one EV with much less impact using our natural resources. As the CEO of Toyota stated recently in Forbes, customers - not regulations or politics - should make the decision on what path to rely on.

In conclusion, I believe there is room in our state to include energy choice, preserve our grid and protect ratepayers.

I respectfully request a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "April Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate April Rose
District 5, Carroll and Frederick counties