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**SUPPORT – House Bill 1428**  
**HB 1428 – Public Safety – Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission**  
**Judiciary Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., serves approximately 285,000 customers in all or parts of seven Maryland counties (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington). FirstEnergy is dedicated to safety, reliability, and operational excellence. Its ten electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland.

**Favorable**

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy supports House Bill 1428 – *Public Safety – Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission*. HB-1428 establishes the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission to develop policy recommendations to increase safety and reduce violent crime and theft at electric vehicle charging stations.

**Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy requests a Favorable report on HB-1428 for the following reasons:**

The safety issues to be addressed by this new Commission are real, and if not solved could create a drag on the widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EV) in the state. Gasoline stations are typically well-lit and attended by employees, but many EV stations are in more remote, less visible locations. EV's also take longer to charge, so drivers are normally at these stations for longer periods of time. Additional time, spent in unsecure locations, can lead to EV drivers being more vulnerable to criminal activity.

Recommendations for improved lighting, security cameras, smart phone applications, and emergency lighting in this bill all seem appropriate. However, the requirement for EV drivers to be able to remotely disconnect from an EV charging station should be reconsidered. EV's essentially latch on to the EV station connector, so there is no mechanism an EV charging station owner can modify to meet this requirement. Although well-intentioned, this requirement is something EV manufacturers would need to address in the manufacturing of the automobile.

This legislation may have implications to Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy's existing EV charging station program, however we support the creation of this new Commission to further advance public safety for EV drivers in Maryland. **For this reason, Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy respectfully request a Favorable report on HB-1428.**