



Chair Vanessa Atterbeary
and Members, Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 1, 2024

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports House Bill 89, the One Less Car Act of 2024**, which creates an income tax credit for Marylanders who do not own or have access to a car.

Studies show that commuting time—or put another way, access to reliable transportation—is the strongest indicator of someone’s ability to climb the economic ladder.¹ That’s a powerful incentive for many people to buy a car, even in communities with robust transit service, but it can be a significant financial burden. Between financing, insurance, and maintenance, Americans spend an average of \$12,000 each year on car ownership².

The One Less Car Act would provide a financial boost for the over 206,000 Maryland households who did not have access to a car in 2022, roughly 9% of all households statewide.³ It would also be an incentive for those considering going car-free. Maryland already provides an income tax credit for people who choose to buy electric vehicles, and this puts people without cars on a level playing field⁴. We ask the Ways and Means Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed
Regional Policy Director

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/07/upshot/transportation-emerges-as-crucial-to-escaping-poverty.html>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/22/your-money/car-ownership-costs-increase.html>

³ <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2022.DP04?q=vehicles%20in%20maryland>

⁴ <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/mobilesources/pages/zev.aspx>

The Washington, DC region is great and it can be greater.