

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**TO:** Marc Kroman, Chair of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, and Committee members  
**FROM:** Cait Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, State Policy Manager; and Michelle Dietz, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relations  
**POSITION:** Support HB 897 Maryland Department of Transportation - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Expansion - Plans and Programs

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 897 offered by Delegate Moon. HB 897 seeks to expand Maryland's electric vehicle (EV) charging network in order to support the appropriate number of EVs in operation to meet Maryland's commitments to economy-wide emissions reductions. The bill supports our state's commitments under the Climate Solutions Now Act and is consistent with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and the Mitigation Working Group's calls to prioritize expanded EV charging.

As a member of the Mitigation Working Group and the Zero Emissions Vehicles Sub Group, TNC provided funding for a study to examine and design program recommendations for accelerating light-duty zero emission vehicle adoption in Maryland. We recognize that increasing access to EV charging equipment across the state is essential for transitioning the transportation sector to electric.

The EV market is growing – an increasing number of customers are interested in purchasing cleaner and healthier transportation options, including light-duty vehicles and bicycles. Inconsistent access to charging equipment poses a barrier to consumers who would purchase an EV. HB 897 calls on the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to collaborate in identifying the number of EVs in operation necessary to meet our climate commitments. MDOT and MEA are further tasked with mapping out, planning, and implementing programs necessary to increase EV charging infrastructure access to the level needed to support the EV expansion consistent with our commitments.

Transportation is one of the three largest emissions sources in our state and across our region. In order to achieve economy-wide emissions reductions and meet the goals set by the Climate Solutions Now Act and by Governor Moore, we must act now on infrastructure transitions needed to support our energy future. TNC commends Delegate Moon for introducing HB 897, which seeks to reduce barrier to EV purchases through establishing a better-connected EV charging equipment network across Maryland.

**Therefore, we urge a favorable report on HB 897.**