

Committee: Environment and Transportation**Testimony on: Bill Number 673 “Condominiums and Homeowners Associations Governing Documents—Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment****Position: Support****Hearing Date: February 11, 2025**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 673. This bill would remove one barrier to the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for certain multi-family residences. Specifically, the bill would prohibit the governing documents of a condominium or homeowners association from unreasonably restricting the governing body from installing or authorizing the installation of electric vehicle recharging equipment. The bill would require that decisions regarding such equipment be subject to the ordinary budgeting process of the governing body.

This modest, common-sense, cost-neutral legislation will help provide residents of multi-family units (who are more likely to be low-income or People of Color) with access to electric vehicle charging at home which studies have shown is typically cheaper and more convenient than public charging.¹

The transportation sector accounted for 35% of Maryland’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, with most emissions (82%) in this sector coming from on-road vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel. It is imperative that we support the transition to clean modes of transportation. The Maryland Department of Transportation’s Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance included a goal of 1.1 million electric vehicles being registered in Maryland by 2030. To meet this goal, we should reduce barriers to the purchase of electric vehicles, including the lack of convenient access to home charging equipment for residents of multi-family housing. HB 673 makes an important contribution by supporting Maryland residents who want to transition away from gasoline-powered vehicles for their transportation needs.

We urge the Committee to provide a favorable report.

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¹ <https://www.consumerreports.org/hybrids-evs/evs-offer-big-savings-over-traditional-gas-powered-cars/>