



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 216 – Electric Vehicles – Repeal of Excise Tax Credit and Establishment of
Rebate Program
SUPPORT

The City of Rockville is thankful to Chair Korman and the members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 216. We thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for sponsoring this important legislation, which aligns with Rockville's Climate Action Plan goals.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 216, which aims to expand the use of electric vehicles (EVs). This cost-neutral bill would convert the existing EV excise tax credit to a rebate program that would allow potential EV buyers to receive the rebate in the form of a lower upfront cost at the time of purchase, instead of having to wait for a benefit after the car purchase or lease. Reducing the upfront purchase and lease costs of EVs makes them more attainable to a wider range of incomes and would enable more Maryland residents to experience the lower operating costs and zero tailpipe emissions benefits. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration would administer the program and provide a process for dealerships to claim reimbursement, which avoids adding any additional paperwork and time investment burdens to customers.

HB 216 will help the City meet its Climate Action Plan goals. Transportation emissions account for about 35 percent of Rockville's greenhouse gas emissions, and EVs produce a fraction of heat-trapping emissions as conventional combustion engine vehicles.

Rockville is committed to upgrading its fleet to EVs as part of the City's Climate Action Plan efforts. Recently, the City converted 21 of 70 eligible fleet vehicles to electric and has developed a draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan to support City and community EV adoption that is under Mayor and Council consideration.

HB 216 is an important step forward in making EVs more affordable for residents in Maryland. Further, this legislation supports Rockville and the State's shared goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and supports environmental sustainability. For these reasons we urge the Committee to provide HB 216 with a favorable report.