

Josh Cohen and Scott Wilson
ZEEVIC Legislative Working Group

February 24, 2026

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Re: **SUPPORT for SB 622** – Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund -
Required Uses - Building Electrification and Transportation Electrification

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

We write to you as the chair and vice-chair of the Legislative Working Group (LWG) for ZEEVIC, the State's Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council. ZEEVIC's mission is to evaluate zero emission vehicle (ZEV) ownership and charging station incentives; develop recommendations for a statewide infrastructure plan; and propose policies to promote the successful integration of EVs into Maryland's communities and transportation system.

Context for this letter

To facilitate ZEEVIC's review and consideration of relevant bills, ZEEVIC's chair established a Legislative Working Group. This LWG meets weekly during Session. ZEEVIC's LWG has reviewed SB 622 and is recommending that ZEEVIC formally vote to support the bill. Although the ZEEVIC chair is scheduling two additional ZEEVIC meetings during Session, unfortunately the timing is such that ZEEVIC is unable to formally take a position on SB 622 prior to the February 26 Committee hearing.

Because of this timing, we are writing to advise you that ZEEVIC's Legislative Working Group is recommending a position of SUPPORT by ZEEVIC. Although it would be premature to speak on behalf of ZEEVIC before it formally votes on a position, we believe there is value to this Committee in knowing that the LWG has taken this preliminary step of recommending support.

Comment

Senate Bill 622 is a straightforward and simple bill that amends and clarifies the allowable uses for Maryland's Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF). SB 622 establishes that the SEIF's allowable uses include providing "loans and grants for building electrification and transportation electrification."

ZEEVIC's Legislative Working Group is recommending support for this bill. Supporting transportation electrification is consistent with the SEIF's purpose.

Given the fiscal challenges facing the State's general fund, we believe identifying other funding sources that can be used for transportation electrification is essential to help the state continue to make progress in meeting its statutory emission reduction commitments enacted into law through the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Particularly now, in 2026, as the federal government has changed its posture towards transportation electrification from supportive to oppositional, the need for continued leadership by the State is as strong as ever.

Thank you for your consideration of this input. If you have questions or if we can provide further information, please feel free to email zeevic@mdot.maryland.gov.

Respectfully,



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