



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 232 – Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council - Reporting, Membership, and Sunset Extension**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 232, entitled Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council - Reporting, Membership, and Sunset Extension and would like to offer a letter of support.

MDE supports efforts that aim to mitigate the effects of climate change through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including in the transportation sector. House Bill 232 would extend the effective date of the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC), previously known as the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (EVIC).

Thanks to the work of the Council, Maryland has continually been ranked as one of the friendliest electric vehicle markets in the country. The Council brings together stakeholders from all over the state to find solutions to issues that present barriers to lower-emission vehicle adoption in Maryland. Zero-emission vehicles now face many of the same early adoption issues as electric vehicles. A lack of fuel cell refueling infrastructure prevents fuel cells that are already being developed and sold by vehicle manufacturers from being marketed in Maryland. MDE looks forward to working with the Council on this innovative technology.

The transportation sector currently accounts for over a third of the State's nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, with these emissions projected to grow in the coming years. Emissions of NOx are a significant contributor to Maryland's ground level ozone problem and of harmful nitrogen deposition into the Chesapeake Bay. MDE believes zero emission vehicles provide an effective solution to reducing these emissions from the transportation sector while allowing Maryland's economy to continue to prosper.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 232 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable David Fraser-Hidalgo