



## Maryland Chapter

7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 102  
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**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Testimony on:** HB 232 - “Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council – Reporting, Membership, and Sunset Extension”

**Position:** Support

**Hearing Date:** February 6, 2020

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 232. This bill would alter the membership of the Maryland Zero Emission EV Infrastructure Council by replacing the Baltimore Electric Vehicle Initiative representative with one from an electric vehicle driver advocacy organization, and by increasing the number of environmental community representatives from one to two. The bill also would extend the termination date for the Council until June 30, 2026.

By increasing the environmental representation and having a representative from an EV advocacy organization on the Council, more innovative and environmentally-friendly policies and recommendations may be developed to further promote and integrate EVs into the Maryland transportation network. Extending the life of the Council is particularly important to encourage the growth of EVs, and reduce the number of gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles on the road, because transportation is now the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in this country. Vehicle tailpipe emissions also are hazardous to human health and are linked to various cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases.

In summary, this bill represents a necessary next step for the Council to promote more EV usage in our state and help the state meet its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act goal. We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this legislation.

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