

February 1, 2020
10101 Grosvenor Place, Unit 2009
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis Maryland 21401

To the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Orin Osmon and I am here to lend my support to House Bill 111 Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act.

I am a resident of Montgomery County and live in a 400 unit condominium building clustered along with 4 other such buildings of similar size. None of these have charging facilities for electric vehicles even though there are many plug-in electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles parked on the properties.

My efforts to have chargers installed in common areas for all to utilize has been stymied by my property manager and the board members as unworkable. The condominium has limited spaces not assigned to residents and apparently utilizing such spaces would, as they argue, leave far too few for residents' guests. Even if they were to sacrifice some of the unassigned spots, they foresee difficulties in residents sharing the chargers equitably and fear residents without EVs complaining about the "Elite EV Owners" getting special treatment. This idea that EV are for the affluent and elite may have been an impression in the past, but affordability of EV is now attainable to a broader community.

As for setting up a charger in your own parking spot, the one you bought and own, forget it. The common attitude is akin to: Denied! Please re-submit your application for further denial.

In short, even in progressive Montgomery County, getting EV chargers installed near your condominium is far too difficult today. This not only denies citizens the ability to charge their vehicles at home for the benefit of the community, but also puts another obstacle in the path to electric vehicle adoption in Maryland.

Passing HB 111 would benefit all! Property managers and boards would be inclined to accede to the will of the increasing number of EV owners to have chargers installed. When questioned by those who perceive the new chargers a problem, they could point to the law and not have to defend themselves. The EV owners would be able to have their vehicles fully charged as they sleep and reduce the hunting for chargers that accompanies owning an EV as a condo dweller. EVs will gain greater acceptance as charging becomes more accessible to more people. Finally, the public and the environment will benefit from the reduction of pollution resultant from the increased use EVs as opposed to internal combustion engine powered vehicles.

Therefore, I urge you to pass HB 111 and enact into law for the benefit of all of Maryland.

Orin Osmon