



**HB1223 - Clean Cars Act of 2020**  
**House Energy & Transportation Committee**  
**February 28, 2020**  
**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Michael Loll and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in ***strong support of HB1223 with amendments***, to help expand the purchase of Electric Vehicles in Maryland.

Electric vehicle sales have risen steeply in recent years, and as of December 2019 over 23,000 electric vehicles were registered in the state (1). It is important to foster this expansion in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transportation pollution. Therefore, we strongly support the excise tax credits and rebates in this bill that can be applied to the purchase of an electric vehicle or associated charging equipment.

However, we would like to see the extension of this credit to fuel cell vehicles struck from this bill. Fuel cell vehicles run on hydrogen, and hydrogen at this time is produced from fracked liquid natural gas (2). In addition to the environmental damage produced by fracking, the hydrogen production process releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. Therefore, this provision works against the otherwise positive environmental effects supported by the rest of the bill.

**We urge a favorable report on HB1223 amended to eliminate the excise tax credit for fuel cell vehicles.**

1. MVA Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Registrations by County as of December 2019  
<https://opendata.maryland.gov/Transportation/MVA-Electric-and-Hybrid-Vehicle-Registrations-by-County>. Accessed February 9, 2020.
2. Kalamaras, C.M. and Efstathiou, A.M. Hydrogen Production Technologies: Current State and Future Developments. Conference Papers in Science, 2013.