



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 27, 2020

### **SUPPORT HB1223: Clean Cars Act of 2020**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

#### **Maryland League of Conservation Voters**

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Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly supports HB1223, The Clean Cars Act of 2020, and we thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for his long-standing leadership on this issue.

The Maryland General Assembly, and the Environment and Transportation Committee, have made important strides towards addressing climate change and putting Maryland on the path to being a leader in climate policy nationwide. Confronting the climate emergency is a relentless challenge that must be attacked with robust action in all sectors of the economy. No sector is more important to confront head-on than transportation, which contributes 38% of Maryland's greenhouse gas inventory.

This year, you have the opportunity to take bold steps to address transportation pollution by supporting public transit and electrification of transit and school buses – these initiatives are priorities of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. HB1223 is an important component of the solution to transportation pollution by making the purchase of electric vehicles more affordable to more Marylanders through expanding the Electric Vehicle Tax Credit and extending the program to the end of 2023. Maryland has recognized the importance of electric cars by setting a mandate of 500,000 new electric vehicles on the road by the year 2025. This extended and expanded tax credit is critical to reaching that goal.

We are grateful that this initiative has bipartisan support, with the introduction of Governor Hogan's HB359 - Clean Cars Act of 2020. While we acknowledge the Administration's commitment to the cause of electric vehicle expansion, the climate crisis requires bold, aggressive, action, HB1223 is designed to provide more tax credits to more people, with double the allocation of the competing proposal.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB1223.