



Maryland Grain Producers Association
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House Bill 592 – State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles
Committee: Environment & Transportation

MGPA Position: **SUPPORT with Amendment**

The Maryland Grain Producers Association serves as the voice of grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley and sorghum across the state. On an annual basis, nearly a million acres of these crops are grown in Maryland.

House Bill 592 – State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles prohibits the state of Maryland from entering into a purchase or lease contract after FY22 for a non-zero emissions electric fleet vehicle.

MGPA supports this legislation with an amendment to read:

“BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, A STATE UNIT MAY NOT ENTER INTO A 17 CONTRACT TO PURCHASE OR LEASE VEHICLES FOR THE STATE VEHICLE FLEET 18 THAT ARE NOT ZERO-EMISSION ELECTRIC VEHICLES **OR FLEXFUEL VEHICLES CAPABLE OF UTILIZING E85 85% ETHANOL FUEL.**”

E85 is an alternative fuel comprising 85% denatured ethanol and 15% gasoline. Corn ethanol is made from corn grown on an annual basis by American farmers. It is a renewable fuel source that can be used as a compliment or alternative to oil. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released a peer reviewed paper examining the lifecycle of greenhouse gas emissions from corn-based ethanol and found that corn ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 43% (as of 2017) compared to conventional gasoline and has the potential to reduce emissions by as much as 76% should higher blends be adopted.

MGPA feels that ethanol is a part of the renewable fuel’s solution.

We request your favorable report with amendment on House Bill 592.

Thank you,

Lindsay Thompson