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Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair
Motor Vehicle and Transportation
Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB592
State Vehicle Fleet—Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles
Testimony by Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
February 11, 2021-The Environment and Transportation Committee

In October 2013, Maryland signed on to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding our state's zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) program. As one of the signatories, Maryland agreed to lead by example to establish ZEV purchase targets for government and quasi-governmental agency fleets and report annually on ZEV acquisitions. We agreed to explore opportunities for coordinated vehicle and fueling station equipment procurement and to provide public access to government fleet fueling stations. Lastly, we pledged that state contracts with automobile dealers and car rental companies will, to the extent possible, include commitments to the use of ZEVs where appropriate.

These goals provide a road map for our public fleet, but Maryland also has an Executive Order from 2015 that further defines the state fleet requirements. The 2015 Maryland Executive Order stipulates a goal for state agencies to increase the number of ZEVs in their fleets through the normal course of fleet replacement so that at least 25% of annual fleet purchases of light duty vehicles will be ZEVs by 2025.

Currently there are 5 fully-electric vehicles out of a total light-duty fleet of 4,454. The light-duty, non-emergency vehicle fleet is the best category of vehicles through which we can meet our ZEV transition goals. According to the Maryland Energy Administration, the State expects to add 74 ZEVs to the fleet; however, 69 of these are Plug-in Hybrids.

We need to step up the transition and commit to a total fleet transition; HB592 will require this beginning in 2023.

Our transportation system is biased towards fossil-fuel vehicles. Changing this trend will require a REAL commitment from our state to lead by example and wherever feasible, transition our fleet to zero-emission vehicles. I ask you for a favorable report for HB592 to enable our state's fleet to transition to ZEVs.