



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 592- State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed House Bill 592- *State Vehicle Fleet-Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles* and would like to provide some information related to this bill.

For more than ten years, Maryland has been a key supporter of introducing light duty zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) into the marketplace. In 2007, Maryland adopted the California Clean Cars Program, including its ZEV standard and then in 2013 Maryland joined eight other states in signing the regional ZEV MOU (MOU). Under this MOU the states developed a multi-state ZEV Action Plan (Action Plan) to aid both public and private entities in accelerating ZEV deployment in the region. In addition, sales goals were established for each state, with Maryland having a goal of approximately 300,000 light duty ZEVs on the road by 2025. Also, as part of the MOU and Action Plan, all the states committed to “lead by example” by developing plans to convert their state fleets over to ZEVs.

MDE has been actively working with other state agencies, including the Department of General Services (DGS), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on developing a comprehensive statewide plan for converting the state fleet to ZEVs and installing the required infrastructure to support the effort. DGS and DBM will be releasing this plan this year. The State is currently purchasing ZEVs, and over the past two years there has been a significant increase in the types of ZEVs available and the cost has also decreased, which has made it more feasible for the State to convert its fleet. Last year the State procured seventy-four plug-in vehicles and that number is expected to be over two hundred ZEVs this year. The State is also taking a strategic approach to the deployment of electric vehicle infrastructure to support incoming ZEVs and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). The installation of charging infrastructure on several state owned sites has begun and will provide the needed support for these new vehicles. The State expects the pace of the transition to ZEVs will continue to increase as more vehicles become available, prices continue to decrease, and infrastructure continues to be installed.

The expansion of ZEVs plays an important role in helping Maryland achieve its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. The current Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) was signed into law by Governor Hogan in 2016 and has a goal of a 40% reduction in GHG emissions from 2006 levels by 2030. Light duty vehicles are one of the largest sources of GHG emissions in the State. The State identified state-owned light-duty passenger vehicles that could be converted to ZEVs and PHEVs by 2030. Converting to ZEVs and PHEVs will not only achieve

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significant short-term GHG reductions, but also continue to generate deeper reductions beyond the 2030 time-frame.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 592 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Tyler Abbott

cc: George "Tad" Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration