



SB 144 – Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act

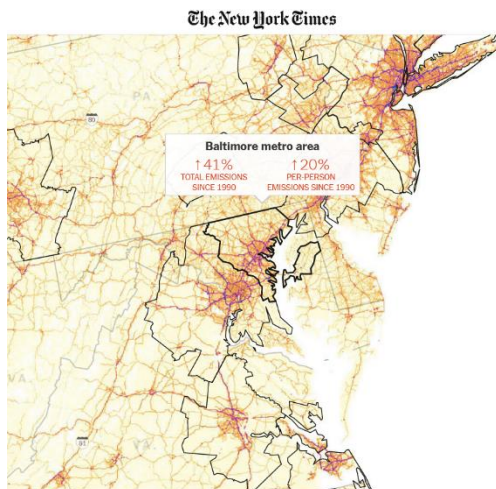
Testimony before Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 26, 2021

Position: Favorable

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 SB 144*** because of the critical role electric vehicles (EVs) will have in reducing air pollution in Maryland. Encouraging the installation of EV chargers in multifamily units, where feasible, can encourage residents to purchase these cleaner vehicles.

The importance of electric vehicles in climate change is well documented, but their potential to reduce air pollution is often downplayed. While the nation's air is far cleaner today than fifty years ago, our populace still faces health risks from particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, ozone, and nitrogen oxides. These pollutants are generated by gasoline powered auto traffic, and recent studies indicate this type of pollution is on the rise in Maryland.



Emissions from driving in the Baltimore metro area grew faster than population between 1990 and 2017, which means emissions per person have increased.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/10/10/climate/driving-emissions-map.html>

It is not unreasonable to assume that this trend will continue once the pandemic subsides. Anything the state can do to encourage EV adoption by the public would be a help in addressing the issue.

By now you have probably been inundated with data about the health effects of air pollution. But behind all those numbers are people living, or trying to live, their lives. My mother developed adult onset asthma, more likely caused by smoking in her youth than by living in Philadelphia, although who knows for sure. Her first attack (which she survived, as well as subsequent ones) came when I was driving her on an errand, and I still remember her gasping for air, the terror in her eyes, and the ensuing sick screeching sound she made as she tried to breathe. Imagine this was your loved one. Imagine that you are the loved one (and maybe you are). This could be a six year old in Baltimore or a teenager in Montgomery County. And asthma, as you know, is just one of the many diseases caused or exacerbated by automobile pollution. This bill is just a small step, but I believe it is a worthwhile one which would help improve the health of our state's residents.

In concluding, I would like to add one more point. In the course of the past decade, Maryland has been encouraging its citizens to adopt EV transport through vehicle excise tax credits, the establishment of the Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC), etc. This work is all for naught if EV owners have no place to charge their cars. To avoid working at cross purposes with itself, Indivisible HoCo asks the General Assembly to pass these bills into law.

Thank you for your time and attention.

We encourage a favorable report.

Michael Loll

Columbia, MD