



SB0627 – State Building Code - Electric Vehicles
Testimony before
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 15, 2022
Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Brian Wessner, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County - an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB0627**, to modify State building code to mandate a certain percentage of EV-capable, EV-ready and EVCS installed parking spaces for certain newly constructed buildings and buildings undergoing certain renovations. We appreciate the leadership of Senator Waldstreicher in moving this bill.

The number of registered EVs in Maryland has more than doubled – from 17,970 in December of 2020 to 40,587 as of November of 2021. MDOT projects there will be 790,000 EVs in Maryland by 2030 – with ownership extending to a large portion of Maryland residents. Nine states, with 629,000 registered EVs, covering 13 major metropolitan areas, determined this is an important issue for the adoption of EVs and have passed EV-ready building codes.

The International Code Council provides guidance for building codes used worldwide. 2021 updates to their International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) recommend adoption of EV charging codes. These code updates are supported by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Natural Resources Defense Council, and National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

Eighty percent of EV owners charge their vehicles overnight at home - it is the most convenient option and takes advantage of lower overnight electricity rates. Post construction charging at-home requires the installation of equipment which can cost homeowners \$1500 or more; costs to multifamily building owners can be up to \$4000 per parking space. When installed during construction, these costs are reduced 40% - 75% when these installations become common practice as part of State building code.

A fiscal analysis conducted by the General Assembly determined that Maryland Department of Labor would be able to adopt the EV building code with existing resources, without incurring any additional costs, and with no material impact to government operations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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