



WORLD
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INSTITUTE

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March 21, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the World Resources Institute's [Electric School Bus Initiative](#) to express our strong support for the swift passage of House Bill 829 and the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule. WRI is working to advance an equitable transition of the entire fleet of U.S. school buses to electric vehicles by 2030. This bill represents the opportunity for Maryland to emerge as a national leader in electric vehicle manufacturing and sales, including electric school buses.

We applaud Delegate Love and the supporters of HB829 for their commitment to transportation electrification — and the many economic, environmental, and public health benefits of that critical transition. Maryland, along with 14 other states and the District of Columbia, entered into a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that establishes a collaborative effort to achieve 100% zero-emission MHDV sales by 2050. By advancing HB829, this committee and the state of Maryland can take a major step toward that goal.

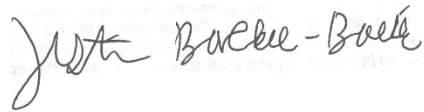
ACT requires an increasing percentage of manufacturer medium- and heavy-duty vehicle (MHDV) sales to be electric each year beginning in 2024. Rule adoption would greatly accelerate the electrification of Maryland's mostly diesel school buses, which would improve the health of the [600,000](#) young students who ride them to and from school. Depending on the age of a diesel school bus, children are exposed to air pollution levels as much as [12 times higher](#) inside the bus compared to ambient levels. Diesel exhaust from school buses is a known carcinogen linked to reduced lung development in children, respiratory diseases, and negative impacts on cognition that limit students' success in the classroom. Electric school buses, producing zero tailpipe emissions, are the healthiest solution for students and bus drivers. This is particularly true for students from underserved communities, who rely more heavily on school bus transportation while experiencing the highest levels of air pollution. ACT and the transition to an electric school bus fleet will help address this historic inequity. Additionally, electric school buses, through pairings with renewable energy and storage, can support a transition to a cleaner energy grid while increasing resiliency.

HB829 will help Maryland to electrify the most heavily polluting vehicles on the road — resulting in cleaner air and improved health for children and Marylanders throughout the

state. There is a clear opportunity to maximize these benefits by codifying ACT adoption during this legislative session.

We respectfully urge the committee to advance this bill, followed by the full House of Delegates. Thank you for considering our request to adopt this critical policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Backal Balik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Justin Backal Balik
Senior Manager of State Policy for Transportation Electrification
World Resources Institute