



## **Policy Foundation of Maryland**

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Testimony on:** HB0829-Department of the Environment – Zero–Emission Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles – Regulations (Zero–Emission Truck Act of 2022)

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Love

**Organization:** Policy Foundation of Maryland, MD Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Sarahia Benn (Executive Dir.)

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** February 25, 2022 1PM

Mr. Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing testimony today in opposition of HB0829. Policy Foundation of Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts Black, Brown, marginalized, low income communities and veterans affairs. Environmental legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently.

HB0829's purpose would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2022. The rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing annual percentage of medium and heavy duty vehicles including pickup, delivery, and semi trucks as well as school buses between Model Year 2026 (for states that adopt in 2022) and 2035. These vehicles represent 10% of vehicles on the road but disproportionately contribute to 30% of carbon emissions, 45% of toxic nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

24 hours a day 18 wheelers powered by diesel spewing massive air pollution into Perryman Peninsula enter into Spesutia road spreading it everywhere and then

eventually exit. These diesel powered trucks carry Clorox and other hazardous items running right in the middle of this Blue collar, low to middle income Historical Community. Whether it's 6am, 9am, 12pm, 3pm, 5pm truck congestion is high and if a diesel powered truck breaks down in this small two lane community it creates unsafe traffic and roadway congestion to a point that pedestrians and home owners can not even commute in and out of their home roadways.

There are large backups from multi semi tractor trailers arriving and warehouse shift changes which seems to be continuously going on. This increased traffic makes trips in and out of the five surrounding communities unsafe and filled with diesel pollution. Add in all of this congestion diesel powered School buses that are filled with our Children.

Diesel exhaust is bad for everyone's health so imagine the impacts on a child's health? Exposure to diesel engine exhaust causes cancer; increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular disease, exacerbates asthma and can lead to low weight. Children are especially vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe, on average, 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults and their lungs are still in the developmental phase.

Environmental asthma and other breathing issues have plagued my district as more and more diesel powered trucks motor down the streets of Perryman Peninsula and its five surrounding areas including Abingdon Woods and Edgewood. It is becoming its own silkwood circumstance and it's as if no one knows what's going on yet everyone knows something is going on and there has been a breach in the environment it's just being hidden from the greater public like most things in Harford.

In my district 34 we have many environmental issues brought about from excessive industrialization, excessive diesel trucks, and diesel school buses contributing damaging things to our environment such as sediment ponds near streams at the Chesapeake Bay. Some days seeing the rising gusts of diesel smoke come out the tailpipes of the school buses and the 18 wheelers in such close proximity near the school children really disturb me because as an educator I always have concern for the health of the future of Maryland. We need healthy kids to be able to focus to be able to prepare for their future and a healthy community but with this excessive pollution there is no way that many of them will.

This is why we at that Policy Foundation of Maryland and Voices Maryland support it so much. And we are asking that the General Assembly do as well. This legislation would help Maryland follow through on its commitment for 30% of all medium and heavy duty vehicles sales to be electric by 2030 and could create high quality green jobs in the

process which would contribute greatly to our economy.

For these reasons, I urge an **FAVORABLE REPORT** on **HB0829**.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarahia Benn  
(Policy Foundation of Maryland, Maryland Legislative Coalition)

**(Dedicated to Black History month)**

“I think I did help,” she says, of her becoming a role model for other women. But they still gotta fight.”

[Gladys West](#)