



February 22, 2022

Delegate Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matter Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB894

Dear Chair Barve, Chair Wilson, and Committee Members:

The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg support House Bill 894 – Transportation Electrification and Modernization (TEAM) Act, and respectfully request that you grant this bill a favorable report.

This bill would extend the duration of the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program, increase the total amount of rebates issued under the Program, and authorize the Maryland Energy Administration to offer additional benefits under certain circumstances, among other advantages. The City of Gaithersburg recognizes the importance of providing public charging stations to support the growing use of hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles. The City recently announced a partnership with Pepco to install 4 new electric-vehicle (“EV”) charging stations at municipal parks and facilities around Gaithersburg, but we are aware that much more will need to be done. This bill’s enhancement of an electric vehicle recharging equipment rebate to local governments will help us to further expand this infrastructure to support the nascent demand for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Among the bill’s most advantageous components are the proposed additional benefits for the installation of qualified electric vehicle recharging equipment in multifamily housing, planned urban developments, and condominiums in environmental justice communities. Several census tracts within the City of Gaithersburg are located within Equity Focus Areas, as identified by the Montgomery County Planning Department, and Equity Emphasis Areas as defined by the Metropolitan Washington Council of

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MAYOR
Jud Ashman

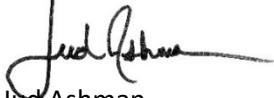
COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Jim McNulty
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

Governments (MWCOC). Equity Focus Areas are parts of Montgomery County that are characterized by high concentrations of lower-income people of color, while Equity Emphasis Areas are small geographic areas that have significant concentrations of low-income, minority populations, or both. As we know, low-income and minority communities are most vulnerable to environmental justice issues, with residents at a much higher risk for health problems from environmental exposures. These census tracts also include high numbers of naturally-occurring affordable, multifamily rental housing units, where funds may not be readily available to support the costs associated with purchasing and installing EV recharging equipment. The enhanced rebates made accessible by HB 894 could incentivize property owners and managers to purchase this equipment, providing some of our most vulnerable residents with access to these charging stations.

The City of Gaithersburg recognizes the financial, environmental, and health benefits of EVs, and supports efforts to make charging stations more accessible for the community. For the reasons stated herein, we respectfully seek a favorable vote on House Bill 894.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jud Ashman
Mayor