

May 23, 2022

**Testimony on HB 829–
Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022
Environment and Transportation Committee**

Position: Favorable

We, the undersigned 39 Maryland-based scientists, researchers, health professionals, economists, engineers, and planners respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB 829 /SB 687, the Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022, and encourage a favorable report from the Committee.

Not only are medium- and heavy-duty trucks and school buses a climate issue for Maryland, but they are also [a major public health problem](#). Diesel pollution is responsible for dangerous levels of nitrogen oxide and fine particulate matter that increases the risk of severe respiratory illnesses and other health problems. Studies continue to link long-term exposure to fine particulate matter with an [increased risk of death](#) from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The good news is that zero-emission trucks are already becoming readily available in a wide variety of models and sizes. Battery-electric trucks do not release tailpipe emissions, and when charged on the Maryland electric grid they have [49-67 percent lower](#) lifecycle global warming emissions compared to diesel trucks.

A recent [analysis](#) from the International Council on Clean Transportation shows if Maryland adopts the Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022, the state could see more than 178,000 zero-emission trucks on the road by 2050. This policy would also bring over \$1.6 billion in public health benefits to our state in that same timeframe, from avoiding over 230 hospital admissions and emergency room visits, 270 premature deaths, and 116,200 cases of minor illnesses.

The Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022 is a key step in the right direction. By supporting this legislation, you will demonstrate your commitment to cleaner air and a healthier future. Now is the time for Maryland to continue its climate and clean air leadership.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Thank you,

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