



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1036

Washington County – Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Exemption

Date: March 10, 2023

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **Oppose**

From: Matt Stegman

Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** HB 1036 which exempts a motor vehicle registered in Washington County to county residents from Maryland's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program requirements. This exemption would allow more pollution from vehicle emissions in conflict with mandatory standards for air and water quality.

Vehicle exhaust contains a number of pollutants that impair Maryland's air and water quality. Among other pollutants, it is a significant source of nitrous oxides that cause health problems for Maryland residents and contribute to excess nitrogen loads in the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Program reports that more than one-third of the nitrogen pollution in the Bay comes from the air and that "mobile sources" including passenger cars, SUVs and light trucks are a major component of this load. Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan relies on full implementation of federal programs such as the Clean Air Act to achieve pollution reduction goals for air deposition.

Maryland's VEIP testing protocols implement requirements of the Clean Air Act, verify that emissions controls are present and functioning, and help provide assurance that the state's Bay restoration targets will be met. In the most recent year for which data is available, MVA reports over 144,000 vehicles registered in Washington County. These vehicles may be driven to all corners of the state, not limiting their pollution effects solely to one county. Without VEIP testing, vehicles with poorly functioning emissions controls could continue to release excess nutrient pollution and other airborne contaminants that contribute to violations of adopted standards for air and water quality.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 1036.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.