

JEN TERRASA  
Legislative District 13  
Howard County

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa  
District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB830, Residential Construction or  
Significant Renovation - Electric Vehicle Charging

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Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB830, which requires installation of EV charging equipment during the construction or significant renovation of all residential homes - including single family homes, townhouses, and multifamily housing. This bill is cross-filed by Senator Brian Feldman.

HB830 is based on successful Howard County legislation, which I sponsored in 2018 when I served on the County Council. That bill has been recognized as a model for other jurisdictions across the country.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, around 80% of electric vehicle charging occurs at home. The accessibility of home charging is currently a major barrier for residents who may want to buy an electric vehicle but choose not to because their housing lacks the needed charging equipment or station infrastructure.

Retrofitting EV charging infrastructure presents significant challenges and can be two to four times more expensive than installation during new construction, and can be nearly impossible in a townhome community with no driveways and no way to plug a car into a home. In many cases, the only option would be running a cord across a communal sidewalk or convincing an HOA to place an EV charging station on communal open space. By making these installations common practice during new construction or major renovations, this bill reduces the costs of installation and allows more Marylanders to feasibly consider buying an electric vehicle.

Maryland has also set an ambitious goal of 300,000 zero emission vehicles on the road by 2025 and 600,000 by 2030. Currently, only 3-6% of all vehicles on the road are EV. Requiring the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new construction and renovations will lead to more electric vehicles on Maryland roads, helping us reach our climate and zero emission goals and weaken the reliance on fossil fuels and pollutant emitting vehicles.

HB830 requires the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment during the construction or significant renovation of residential properties that include at least one garage, carport, or driveway. If townhouses without garages and multifamily residential buildings include off-street communal parking, HB830 specifies that the construction must include at least one communal parking space for each 25 residential units featuring an electric vehicle charging station capable of providing at least Level 2 charging.

If we want folks to switch to electric vehicles, we need to make it possible for them to plug in safely and conveniently. Passing HB830 will promote electric vehicle adoption and ensure that Marylanders have adequate access to charging stations at their place of residence.

I urge a favorable report of HB830.