



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

Support with Amendments

House Bill 123—Vehicle Laws—HOV Lanes—Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles

February 2, 2023

House Environment and Transportation Committee

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments in support of House Bill 123—Vehicle Laws—HOV Lanes-Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber supports reasonable policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhances sustainability. To that end, we appreciate programs that incentive, versus penalize, Marylanders—whether it's individuals or the business community---to do their part in helping to meet Maryland's climate and environmental goals. For that reason, we support House Bill 123, which provides plug-in EV drivers the ability to use Maryland's HOV lanes. We do have some concern, though, about HOV lane congestion as the number of EV drivers increase. We support Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo's amendment to change the bill's sunset to 2025 instead of 2035, as we fill that addresses our concern.

For these reasons, we would respectfully request a favorable vote on House Bill 123. And we thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for being such a champion on these issues.