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**Committee: Energy, Education, and Environment**

**Testimony on: SB 695- Building Code – Construction and Significant Renovation of Housing Units – Electric Vehicle Parking Spaces**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: March 4, 2024**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB 695. The bill would extend EV ready building codes to the new construction and significant renovation of multi-family units. This bill would require that for every 25 residential units in a multi-family complex, there be at least one Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE)-installed parking space and an increasing percentage of EV-Ready parking spaces between 2024 and 2035 for newly constructed homes.

Equitable building codes will help to provide residents of multi-family units (who are more likely to be low-income residents or People of Color) with access to electric vehicle charging. Studies have found that at-home and employee charging is typically much cheaper (and more convenient) than public charging.<sup>1</sup>

The transportation sector accounted for 35% of Maryland’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, with most emissions (82%) in this sector coming from on-road vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel. Therefore, it is imperative that we support residents’ transition toward utilizing clean modes of transportation. The Maryland Department of Transportation’s 2024 Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance included a goal of 1.1 million electric vehicles being registered in Maryland by 2030. This bill would support the requirements of the Advanced Clean Cars II program that are needed to meet our climate targets.

SB 695 makes an important contribution in encouraging and supporting Maryland residents with all levels of resources who want to move away from using gasoline-powered cars for their transportation needs. We urge the Committee to provide a favorable report. Finally, we also encourage the Committee to consider increasing, over time, the requirements for providing on-site charging sites to residents of existing multi-family housing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consumerreports.org/hybrids-evs/evs-offer-big-savings-over-traditional-gas-powered-cars/>