

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Testimony on: SB695 – Building Code-Construction and Significant Renovation of Housing Units – Electric Vehicle Parking Spaces
Submitting: Deborah Cohn
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 4, 2024

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today in support of SB695. I am concerned that Maryland reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in a manner that is equitable and permits more people to participate in necessary changes. I urge you to vote favorably on SB695.

Problem: Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan indicates that “to achieve deeper [greenhouse gas] reductions from the transportation sector, it will be necessary to transition much of the light-duty fleet to [zero-emission vehicles] by 2031. Yet, sales of electric vehicles have slowed down. Many factors contribute, but among these are having to adapt driving habits to find EV chargers that often do not work and range anxiety.

Solution: Both of these factors can be addressed by installing more EV chargers where people live. SB695 adds Public Safety Article §12-205(c) which applies to construction or significant renovation of housing units that include, or will include, on-site, off-street, common use parking, requiring that these housing units include for every 25 residents at least one common use parking space with electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) that is fully installed from the electric panel to the parking space and at least one EVSE-installed parking space that can provide at least Level 2 charging in a common use parking area, and increasing percentages of EV-ready parking spaces dedicated to specific residential units or for common use, depending on the date of the development or building permit application.

Because SB695 would increase the supply of EV charging stations in multifamily housing, I urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

Thank you.

Deborah A. Cohn