



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 695 BUILDING CODE- CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION OF HOUSING- EV PARKING SPACES March 4, 2024

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee

From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. **SB 695** is a forward-thinking Bill that helps Maryland changeover to clean energy automobiles. Most importantly, it does so for those that live in apartments and townhomes (most of our citizens). So please join me in **support of SB 695**.

This piece of legislation addresses the need for electric vehicle chargers, to the everyday Marylander. Not the Tesla owners with a 3-car garage, but the electric car owners that live in apartment buildings and multi-family dwellings. Working people, low- and middle-income families that care about the environment and saving on fuel costs. The need is there, **SB 695** addresses the need. Without bills like **SB 695**, our communities will be littered with miles of extension cords connecting electric cars to household outlets, a danger to all, especially young children. It is this danger that will happen and eventually force the General Assembly to act, after a fatal event. Now is the time to legislate for safety as well as for the environment. This Bill only asks for a minimum of parking spaces and associated wiring and equipment. I respectfully ask that you consider the safety aspect, when voting for or against **SB 695**. Not to mention the cost savings when installing this equipment during new construction or renovation, as opposed to waiting to install this equipment when the yards are finished, the concrete is poured or the parking lot paved.

I commend the sponsors of **SB 695**, legislators that focus on clean air as well as the people I represent, working families. It brings clean energy equipment to Mr. and Mrs. Everyday Marylander. They will thank you for helping them and helping the environment. Please vote **favorably on SB 695**.

