

January 23, 2024

Maryland House of Representatives
House Committee on Health & Government Operations
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Hearing on Maryland House Bill 0091, January 23, 2024

Dear Committee Chair Representative Alston, Committee Vice-Chair Representative Cullison and Members of the Committee on Health & Government Operations,

The Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA) opposes MD HB0091 “State - Use Ban on Gas Powered Lawn & Garden Equipment “. The proposed legislation overstates the contribution of emissions from products powered by small spark ignition engines, oversimplifies the outpower equipment segment and underestimates the complexities of transitioning products in this segment to alternative fuels and zero emission technologies, which is already taking place in the absence of legislative mandates.

The Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA) is a not-for-profit trade association that represents worldwide manufacturers of products ranging from medium and heavy-duty trucks to farm, construction and industrial equipment to outdoor power products. Our members work with government, industry and other key stakeholders to help the nation achieve its goals of cleaner air and safer highways and to ensure that environmental and safety regulations are technologically feasible and cost-effective. EMA has work with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resulting in emissions reductions of up to 90% from previously unregulated small spark ignition engines and the products they power, and its members are continuing to make improvements, including transitioning to alternative fuels and zero emission technologies where appropriate based on the functional and performance demands of products in the market.

Our concerns with HB0091 are the mandates for state government, and state government contracted private parties, to transition their complete product offering to zero emission products in an unreasonable period (January 1, 2025). Such a transition will impose significant unnecessary costs on both the state and private contractors. The lawn and garden industry has seen a significant shift to zero emission products in certain types of equipment (primarily handheld products and walk behind mowers), however that transition is still developing in products in which the functional and performance requirements are more demanding, especially commercial equipment. In addition, the cost of ownership of zero emission equipment needs to be clearly understood as it is not a simple one piece of equipment for another. A more reasonable approach would be to incentivize the purchase of lawn and garden equipment with tax credits and/or rebates as the

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transition would take place when the appropriate type of equipment becomes available for a specific consumers need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions or need additional information , please do not hesitate to contact me at phanz@emamail.org or (312) 929-1979.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Hanz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping tail on the "z".

Patricia Hanz

cc: Sponsor Delegate Foley