



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

HB 1223 Support

Environment & Transportation Committee

Hearing: February 28, 2020

HB 1223 Clean Cars Act of 2020

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The City of Takoma Park supports, and urges favorable consideration of, this bill.

This bill would extend to 2023 an excise tax credit for purchase of zero-emission vehicles, update the technical aspects of this program to reflect a rapidly changing technology (such as expanding from plug-in electric to zero-emission vehicles), and significantly increase funds available for this highly successful program.

Maryland is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. We have already experienced more severe and frequent storms, greater rainfall, increased flooding, more frequent and extreme heat waves, sea level rise along our extensive coasts, and other detrimental impacts. Recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Climate Assessment make clear that our climate is dramatically and rapidly changing, with devastating consequences, and that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced in the very short term to address these consequences.

On-road transportation is nearly a third of the state's GHG emissions, according to the most recent statewide GHG inventory. We cannot ignore the transportation sector, and in particular, the impact of single-occupancy vehicles. Tools that directly address this sector and successfully encourage rapid change to zero-emission vehicles are sorely needed. This bill would expand the impact of a

successful program that is an important component of an aggressive state plan to reduce transportation emissions, and is an important investment in our future.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies and actions. The first all-electric filling station in the nation is in our City, with support from the State of Maryland. The City has limited ability to address single-occupancy vehicles. This bill would continue a powerful incentive program to hasten the switch to zero-emission vehicles in our community.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports HB 1223, and encourages a favorable vote.