



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 25, 2020

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB 734: Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act

Dear Chairman Smith,

I commend Senator Lam for introducing Senate Bill 734, which would create a grant program under the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to provide condominiums and homeowners associations with financing to support electric vehicle recharging equipment in designated parking areas. At least three Howard County homeowners' associations have already expressed interest in applying for grants under this proposed program.

I am encouraged that this bill would provide condominiums and homeowners associations with additional means to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Howard County already requires that new home constructions include infrastructure for plug-in electric vehicles, and we were proud to lead the state in requiring residential driveways and garages to have electric wiring to charge electric vehicles. In August of 2019, I signed CB37 into law, which requires new multi-family residential units to provide one electric vehicle charging station per 25 residential units.

One year ago, I signed Howard County on to the "We Are Still In" declaration to combat climate change. As part of this commitment, Howard County Government is partnering with Baltimore Gas and Electric's EV smart program to install 25 electric vehicle charging stations at County facilities by 2024, the first of which was installed earlier this month at Charles E. Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City.

Senate Bill 734 could encourage condominiums and homeowners' associations in Howard County and across Maryland to provide the same environmentally sustainable transportation infrastructure for their residents.

I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on SB 734.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive