



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Lamont Bagby
Virginia House of Delegates
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for Initiatives for Electrification

Dear Delegate Bagby:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for your bill, HB 1965, Low-Emissions and Zero-Emissions Vehicle Program, and the following bills: HB 1979, Electric Vehicle Rebate Program (Reid); SB 1223, Transportation Electrification (Boysko); and HB 2118, Electric Vehicle Grant Fund (Keam). As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports efforts to help transition to a clean economy through lifting barriers to the adoption of light-duty electric vehicles (EVs) and the electrification of public vehicle fleets.

Electrification of the vehicle fleet is one of the highest impact strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030. Light-duty on-road vehicles are responsible for 60 percent of transportation emissions in the region, and medium- and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDVs) are responsible for 25 percent of transportation emissions in the region. As the regional electricity supply continues to increasingly rely on renewable sources of generation, the emission reduction potential of EVs compared to internal combustion engine vehicles continues to increase.

Several barriers are currently preventing the accelerated adoption of EVs, including vehicle cost, limited model availability, lack of consumer awareness, long charging times, and low numbers of charging stations and other infrastructure. Supporting investments and expanding the adoption for low and zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure is one of COG's environmental priorities. Continuing to overcome barriers will be critical in providing a path forward to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. COG supports the passage of these bills, as they diminish these barriers and provide a pathway for the COG region to reduce transportation emissions and assist the region in its efforts to adopt clean energy.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG's Chief of Energy and Climate Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deni Taveras".

Councilmember Deni Taveras
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee