

February 24, 2022

The Honorable J. Chapman Petersen
Chair, Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
Senator, Virginia General Assembly
Pocahontas Building, Room E517
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Opposing HB 1267, Low-emission and zero-emission vehicle standards; regulations shall be withdrawn and repropose

Dear Senator Petersen:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to oppose delaying the implementation of the Advanced Clean Cars Program for low-emission and zero-emission vehicles. Climate change is a regional priority for COG, the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington. 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. As such, COG supports efforts to expand the adoption of zero-emission vehicles, consistent with COG's legislative priorities.

In 2021, Virginia passed HB 1965, directing the adoption of Clean Car Standards beginning in model year 2025. The legislation requires manufacturers to adopt low-emission vehicle pollution standards and increase the availability of zero-emission electric vehicles ("ZEV") to consumers. This assists in reducing current barriers that are preventing the deployment and adoption of light-duty electric vehicles (EVs), including vehicle cost, limited number of models available, and lack of consumer awareness. The passage of HB 1267 would delay the start date from 2025 to 2030, further slowing down electrification in our region and enforcing current barriers to the adoption of EVs.

Ensuring the Clean Car Standards begin in model year 2025 is necessary to rapidly increase the number of EVs on the road to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. As such, CEEPC, on behalf of COG, opposes HB 1267 and urges to not delay this important initiative until 2030. Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Koran T. Saines
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

The Honorable J. Chapman Petersen
February 24, 2022

cc: Northern Virginia Senate members