



August 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Sierra Club supports the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)'s application in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program to support the buildout of electric charging infrastructure for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles along the I-78 and I-81 corridors.

Sierra Club is the most historic grassroots environmental organization in the country. For more than 130 years, we've gathered millions of activists and volunteers to fight for the places, people, and planet we all love. One of Sierra Club's key priorities is to tackle the climate crisis and defend everyone's right to a healthy world by accelerating the transition to clean transportation, including electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

While trucks make up only 5 percent of total on-road vehicles in the U.S., they are responsible for 30 percent of GHG emissions, 42 percent of NOx emissions, and 51 percent of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions. Residential neighborhoods located near major roads and highways face disproportionate burdens from traffic and transportation pollution. These neighborhoods are far more often communities of color due to decades of residential segregation, and these communities bear a burden of higher rates of asthma and unremitting noise pollution from truck and other vehicle pollution.

Communities along the I-78 and I-81 corridors experience heavy truck traffic that emits an outsized volume of greenhouse gas emissions and particulate matter. Truck traffic makes up as much as 40% of total traffic on some sections of the I-81 corridor, especially from central Pennsylvania through Maryland. This funding will be necessary to deploy standardized electric vehicle charging along these corridors to clean up the dirty diesel pollution that exacerbates the

climate crisis and is responsible for adverse health impacts, including respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

Electric trucks are the most effective solution for reducing freight emissions, and we must ensure there is a robust charging infrastructure network to support the transition. The Sierra Club appreciates this critical multi-state collaboration for building out electric truck charging infrastructure and we hope you will agree this is an exemplary project for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program.

We urge FHWA to strongly consider supporting the efforts to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure along the 350-mile-plus freight corridor between West Virginia to New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Katherine Garcia
Sierra Club
Clean Transportation For All Campaign Director