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**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB 1146 - “Residential Construction – Electric Vehicle Charging”  
**Position:** Favorable with amendment  
**Hearing Date:** March 1, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 1146. The bill would require that newly constructed townhouses and multifamily buildings that do not have a garage, carport or driveway for each housing unit but do have off-street communal parking to include at least one communal parking space for each 25 residential units with an electric vehicle (EV) charging station capable of at least Level 2 charging (alternating current electrical service with a minimum of 208 volts). The spaces featuring EV charging stations must be marked for EV charging use only.

Current law requires the builder or builder’s agent of new single-family detached homes and townhouses with at least a garage, carport, or driveway for each housing unit to provide the home buyer the option to have an EV charging station installed capable of at least Level 2 charging or a dedicated electric line to support the addition of a charging station at a later date. HB 1146 would extend the benefit of access to EV charging stations to those in multifamily buildings and townhouses who have no garage, carport, or individual driveway.

The amendment we propose would allow the homeowners association or property management company for the new townhouses and/or multifamily building(s) to require residents who use an EV charging station in off-street communal parking to pay for the electricity used to charge their EVs. Also, a limit could be placed on the number of hours a resident could use an EV charging station parking space per day so more residents would be able to access the EV charging station parking space(s).

HB 1146 with the amendment we propose would, if passed, enable more plug-in EVs in our state to be used and recharged when parked. Approval of this bill also would have the effect of encouraging more people to purchase, lease, or operate plug-in EVs and would reduce our dependence on petroleum.

Transportation is now the largest contributor to climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions in this country and is also a major source of toxic emissions including benzene, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide. Emissions from vehicle tailpipes are hazardous to human health and are linked to various cancers, heart disease, asthma, emphysema, other respiratory diseases, and premature death. Unlike gas and diesel-powered vehicles, plug-in EVs require little or no fossil fuel and emit little or no air pollution from their tailpipes.

In summary, this bill with the amendment we propose would encourage more electric car usage in our state, which would be better for our health and the environment. We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1146.

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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.