



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Senator Frosh and Delegate Bobo File Clean Cars Bill to Reduce Air Pollution *Coalition of Environmental, Health, Faith Organizations Encouraged by Early Bill Filing, Co-Sponsor Support*

(ANNAPOLIS, Md.) – Maryland Senator Brian Frosh and Delegate Elizabeth Bobo have filed the much-anticipated “Clean Cars Act,” a bill to reduce pollution from car emissions. Legislators anticipate committee hearings on both versions of the bill in the next two weeks.

“The Clean Cars Act has multiple benefits, Sen. Frosh explained. “It will improve the health of Marylanders; it will reduce nitrogen pollution of the bay; and it will be a major step in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. We need to pass it now.”

Co-sponsors in the Senate are Senators Britt, Brochin, Conway, Garagiola, Gladden, Jones, Kelley, Lenett, Madaleno, Muse, Peters, Pipkin, Pugh, Raskin, Rosapepe, and Zirkin. Co-Sponsors in the House are: Barve, Ali, Anderson, Barnes, Beidle, Bronrott, Cane, V. Clagett, Feldman, Frush, Gilchrist, Glenn, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Healey, Hixson, Holmes, Hubbard, Hucker, Kaiser, Kullen, Lafferty, Lawton, Lee, Love, Malone, Manno, McIntosh, Mizeur, Montgomery, Morhaim, Niemann, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Rice, Rosenberg, Ross, Simmons, Stein, Taylor, F. Turner, and Waldstreicher.

Advocates note House co-sponsors include fourteen Delegates in the House Environmental Matters Committee, a majority of that Committee.

“We’ve waited far too long to adopt the program that eleven other states have already acted on,” said Del. Bobo.

The Clean Cars Act is a state-based policy that would address global warming pollution while also reducing pollution that causes cancer, smog, and the dead zone in the Chesapeake Bay. The bill:

- Strengthens the standards for emissions that form smog and other health-damaging pollution.
- Adds carbon dioxide—the main cause of global warming—to the list of pollutants that are covered by vehicle emission standards.
- Requires that a percentage of new cars sold each year are advanced technology vehicles such as hybrids.

A coalition of environmental, health, and faith-based organizations, which worked together to pass last year’s Healthy Air Act, applauded the early bill filing and strong public support as a promising sign.

“The bill has crossed its first milestone with lots of support,” said Brad Heavner of Environment Maryland. “This should be the year our legislators take real action to reduce pollution from cars. The Clean Cars Act would help to combat global warming, clean up the Chesapeake Bay, and improve the health of all Marylanders.”

Eleven other states have already adopted the Clean Cars Program. Carmakers are currently gearing up to meet the stricter standards in 30 percent of the new car market. This bill would require them to put advanced technology components in the cars they ship to Maryland as well.

Cindy Schwartz, Executive Director of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, said the Clean Cars Act is a top priority this legislative session for her organization and the environmental community.

“In November, voters came out in full force to elect a conservation majority in Maryland. With true leaders in the legislature like Senator Frosh, Delegate Bobo, and our host of co-sponsors -- as well as a new Governor -- it seems the pieces are falling into place for Maryland to join with other states to fight global warming.”

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MARYLAND HEALTHY AIR COALITION

Making Maryland's dirtiest polluters clean up their air pollution for the health of our children, communities, and environment.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter - Am Kolel - Chesapeake Climate Action Network - Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance - Clean Energy Partnership - Cleanup Coalition - Clean Water Action - Community Ministries of Prince George's County - Environment Maryland - Environmental Integrity Project - Episcopal Diocese of Maryland - Global Warming Action Alliance - Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light - Johns Hopkins Students for Environmental Action - Lutheran Office on Public Policy - League of Women Voters of Maryland - Maryland Conservation Council - Maryland Interfaith Coalition for the Environment - Maryland League of Conservation Voters - Maryland Nurses Association - Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists - National Parks Conservation Association - National Wildlife Federation - Natural Resources Defense Council - Baltimore Physicians for Social Responsibility - Presbytery of Baltimore - Progressive Maryland - Southern Christian Leadership Conference - Prince George's County Chapter - Waterkeeper Alliance, Chesapeake Programs - UMBC Climate Initiative - Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry for Maryland - Univ. of Maryland School of Nursing Environmental Health Education Center