

**TESTIMONY ON SB 137**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**January 28, 2021**  
**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

**We support the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act (SB 137) which will transition Maryland to clean transportation.**

**Clean public transit is essential to reducing harmful greenhouse gasses and improving public health**, particularly for those in urban settings where air emissions accumulate and cause asthma and other health impacts. We are facing significant threats to public health with global warming and increased air pollution, and we must do our part here in Maryland to create a culture of change.

**Dirty air from dirty buses is an environmental injustice.** To be a moral person demands that we treat others as we would want to be treated because, on a profound level, we rise or fall together. No other principle has ever been shown to result in greater potential for human flourishing. When making critical decisions that have environmental impacts, we must hold ourselves accountable for our choices, individually and collectively, personally and politically. **This call to morality demands that we transition to clean sources of energy in all that we do in order to restore balance to the Earth, not only for those most impacted in environmental justice communities, but also for the unborn generations that will follow in our footsteps.**

**Air pollution also directly impacts our natural waterways.** According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Nitrogen pollution generated from the burning of fossil fuels in vehicles and power plants accounts for 19% of the nitrogen that leads into the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

**Senate Bill 137 makes common sense.** We have reviewed the data indicating that not only do electric buses perform well in cold weather, but they save municipalities thousands of dollars annually, including right here in Frederick County<sup>1</sup>. As demonstrated in Frederick County, this surge in demand for clean energy can also help fuel new jobs, new manufacturing of the vehicles, putting more people to work and re-energizing communities struggling from the pandemic's crushing impact on jobs. While Build Your Dreams was the manufacturer of these buses for Frederick County (and is a California-based company), legislation like this would drive demand for the manufacture of this equipment right here in Maryland.

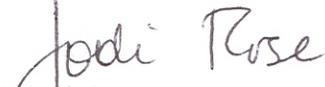
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<sup>1</sup> Build Your Dreams press release, July 1, 2020. [Online here.](#)

**It is time to make a change and propel Maryland forward with a transition to zero-emissions buses, for clean air, healthy communities, clean water, financial savings for the public transit agencies, and increased job opportunities.**

We hope you will join us in supporting SB0137.

Sincerely,

  
Jodi Rose  
Executive Director