



WMDA/CAR Service Station  
and Automotive Repair Association

May 6, 2021

To: Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)

RE: Comment on proposed TCI Model Rule

From: Kirk McCauley, WMDA/CAR

The Proposed transportation Climate Initiative will affect transportation costs across our region and would be a hardship on residents and business. Allowance costs will be passed along to consumer at the pump and businesses will pass additional delivery costs for consumer products.

In surveys taken by highly respected Gonzales Research & Media Services in Maryland and Delaware a vast majority did not want a gas tax to fight climate change (both surveys attached)

Results from similar program in California have not had stellar results for environment. Maryland and Delaware have had better results in GHG reduction than California while California fuel prices have skyrocketed.

The program plans to heavily support electrification of transportation network, incentives, credits, replacing public transportation and school buses with electric powered options at a remarkably high cost. These funds would bypass transportation lock box. Electric vehicles pay no tax for road use. Highways and bridges need maintenance and in some cases replacement. This model rule appears to put the cart before the horse and heavily battery laden vehicles on roads that already need repair.

The program plan says 35% of funds collected go to communities overburdened by pollution and underserved by the transportation system benefit equitably. This all sounds good but how do these residents buy gas to get to work or do low income decide on food or gas? This is a very

regressive tax for those that live week to week. How do we justify additional cost for residents in western Maryland, eastern shore, and southern Maryland? They drive to work every day into Washington or Baltimore because they have no choice, is this equity? Giving subsidies to electric vehicles buyers who are mostly upper income earners is surly not equity.

Maryland and Delaware do not need TCI, GHG emissions are on a downward trend now and goals of this program are unrealistic, regressive. TCI will harm the regions small businesses who employ a large percentage of our work force. Businesses are recovering from a global pandemic and will be years getting back to normal . TCI is a massive plan touching every resident, billions of dollars revenue and managed by an outside entity that is not beholdng to voters. A plan of this nature should be put on ballot, so every resident has a vote. Transparency is nonexistent currently. Ask 20 people at random on the street what TCI is, and you get a blank stare.

Transportation Climate Initiative is not good for Maryland or Delaware and will bring substantially higher fuel and business costs and could result in fuel shortages.