



I am Brian Posler, and I represent Fuel True Independent Energy and Convenience. We are the nonprofit statewide trade association representing the independent Kansas energy distribution companies, and we serve as the voice of over 2000 fuel retailers throughout Kansas.

Chairman Carpenter and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2783.

This is a pre-emption bill designed to prevent future government bureaucrats from regulating or restricting the sale of motor vehicles because of the vehicles' energy source. The internal combustion engine (ICE) has come under attack nationally and in some other states, and we hope to ensure that it is the free market instead of politicians who decide whether it survives.

Some in our industry see this flipping of the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) as an existential threat, while others see it as an opportunity to change and adapt. Some of my members are making huge upfront investments in charging stations, but all of us are currently finding it difficult to make the addition of EV chargers profitable.

Data clearly shows that while some Kansans prefer electric vehicles, a clear majority of consumers still prefer to purchase ICE vehicles. The federal government seems determined to influence our selection of electric vehicles with its EV tax credits and incentives for power generation. We think that individual Kansans should have the right to choose for themselves which new vehicle works best for their needs.

The oil and natural gas industry in Kansas supports over 100,000 jobs, over \$3 billion in family income, and over \$1.4 billion in state and local tax revenue. In addition, we operate over 2000 fuel retailers, and we provide good jobs in every community across the state.

It is already difficult for many C-Stores to make ends meet, with rising labor costs and inflation for inventory, and thanks to EVs, fewer drivers than otherwise are filling up at our pumps. Many of our members operate convenience stores in small towns throughout Kansas. Often, our businesses serve as the only grocery stores in their community, and without them, swaths of rural Kansas would become food deserts. This bill will remove one threat, helping them compete and survive.

The government should not be killing one industry to help another thrive when the free market might well produce the exact opposite outcome. For these reasons, my members stand in support of this bill, and we ask you to recommend it favorably.