

**Senate Transportation Committee  
Testimony of Tad Kramar Opposing SB 189  
March 12, 2019**

I am Tad Kramar from Big Springs, Kansas. I am testifying against SB 189 because this bill would perversely *punish* people for making the highly beneficial choice of purchasing an electric or hybrid vehicle. It is a simplistic response to reduced revenue by refusing to look beyond the existing pricing structure, instead of considering the full scope of costs and benefits in the larger policy picture.

First of all, electric and hybrid vehicles should be *encouraged*, not discouraged, because they emit far less (or even no) harmful pollutants that gas-powered vehicles emit, including not only carbon dioxide, but various other gases and soot that contribute to serious respiratory diseases and even cancer, along with highly poisonous carbon *monoxide*. The benefits of this reduced pollution at least equal, and probably exceed, the gas taxes that electric and hybrid vehicles do not pay.

Second, since electric and hybrid vehicles are often more expensive than their gas-powered counterparts, electric and hybrid vehicle owners often pay higher sales and personal property taxes on their cars. By using electricity to charge their cars, they also pay any sales taxes or fees on the electricity they purchase.

Third, the fiscal note to this bill states that in 2017, only 1,341 of the 1.5 million vehicles registered in Kansas were electric, 11,397 were hybrid, and the number of non-gasoline vehicles is expected to increase 400 percent by 2040. That would be only 12,744 out of 1.5 million, still only a negligible amount that would not significantly reduce gas tax revenues. Thus, this bill would create perverse incentives against purchasing electric vehicles while providing no major revenue increase.

Finally, even if increased fees were justified, the proposed fees of \$150 for electric and \$75 for hybrid vehicles are clearly excessive. Colorado charges only \$50 for plug-in electric vehicles, Missouri and Nebraska charge \$75 for alternative fuel vehicles, and Missouri charges only \$37.50 for plug-in hybrids.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the proposed \$150 fee should not exceed \$75, and the proposed \$75 fee should be no more than \$50.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against SB 189.

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<sup>1</sup>National Conference of State Legislatures, <http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/new-fees-on-hybrid-and-electric-vehicles.aspx>.

Tad Kramar  
kramarmt@hotmail.com  
785-887-6768