

DATE: February 24, 2021

TO: Kansas House of Representatives Taxation Committee

ATTN: Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee

FROM: Kelly Gilbert, Executive Director, Metropolitan Energy Center
Tami Alexander, Sr. Program Coordinator, Central Kansas Clean Cities

RE: **Testimony on HB 2317**

Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) is a nonprofit organization with a 38-year history of transforming energy use in the building and transportation sectors in Kansas and Missouri. Through the Kansas City and Central Kansas Clean Cities Coalitions, MEC has brought together public and private stakeholders to promote clean fuels, fuel efficiency, and new transportation technology. We have over 20 years of experience and expertise in working with alternative fuel vehicles of all types, including biofuels, gaseous fuels, hybrid electric, and battery electric vehicles.

We wish to offer testimony regarding HB 2317 which provides a tax credit for placing a metered-for-fee public access charging system for electric vehicles (EVs) into service.

Transportation is fundamental to our state's economy and using electricity to power vehicles can have significant benefits. It is vital that EV fueling is available to Kansans so that they can have a choice to drive EVs. MEC supports tax credits for EV charging systems for the following reasons.

- 1. Incentivizes growth for electric vehicle fueling infrastructure:** Electric vehicles are here and are increasing in numbers. As the attached graphs show, vehicle manufacturers have more electric models available every year; regional adoption of electric vehicles will increase by more than 5 times in the next 30 years. Electricity is one of the fastest-growing alternative fuels. Equipment and installation costs can be over \$100,000 for DC fast-charging stations, the type needed for quick fueling. Tax credits would help to make it affordable for Kansas businesses to install much-needed charging infrastructure in our communities and along Kansas highways.
- 2. Increases local and regional fuel sourcing:** Installation of more EV charging stations will expand the fuel infrastructure in Kansas and increase the use of local resources. Fuel sourced locally from Kansas's high percentage of wind and natural gas electricity generation benefits our state economy, as dollars spent fueling vehicles with electricity stay in Kansas.
- 3. Increases competitiveness with neighboring states:** Expanding Kansas's electric vehicle fueling infrastructure will increase our state's ability to compete with surrounding states. Colorado, Oklahoma, and Missouri all have greater access to public EV charging. If Kansas doesn't also add EV charging infrastructure, we could become a state that is bypassed by a growing number of EV drivers and lose out on the dollars they would spend in our state.

4. **80% of Kansans support tax rebates for energy efficient vehicles or solar panels:** Research by the Yale University shows that a vast majority of Kansans support incentives for energy efficient vehicles such as EVs. (See attached map.) As such, tax credits for EV charging would be a priority of many Kansans who recognize the importance for state support of these initiatives.

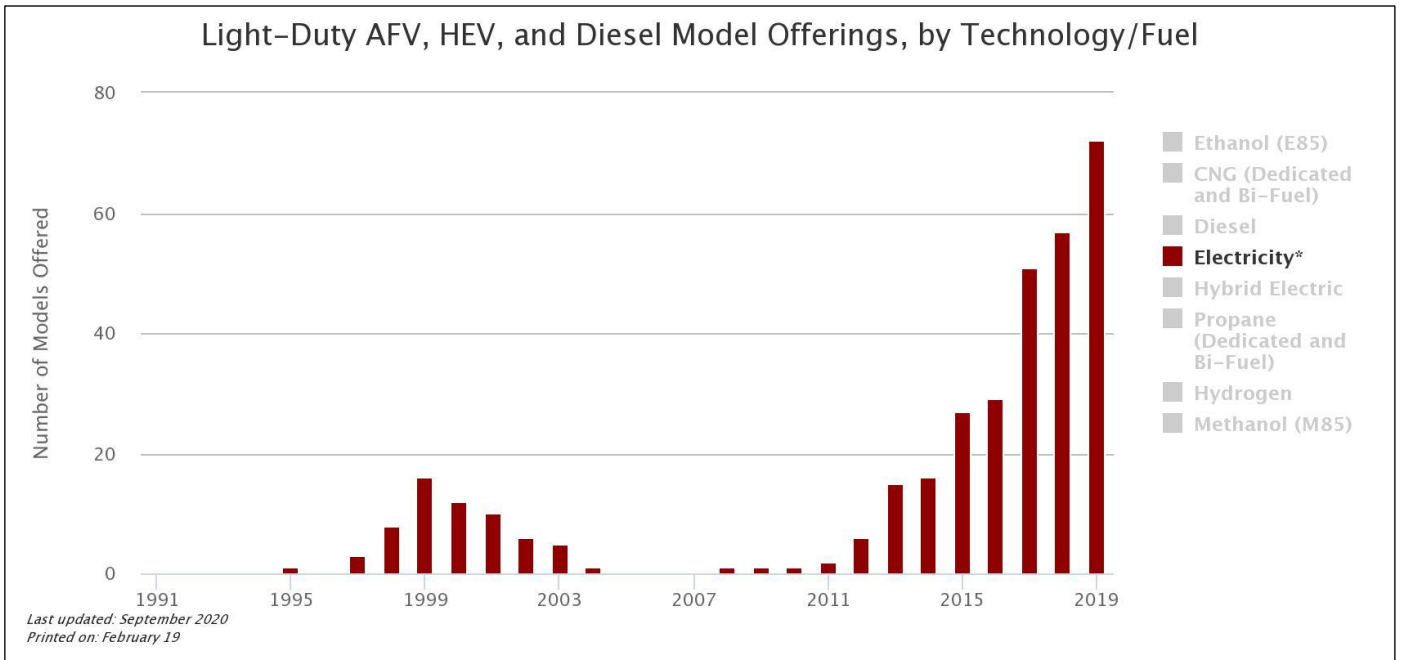
While HB 2317 is a step in the right direction and we support a tax credit for EV charging stations, MEC believes it would be more beneficial to include electric vehicle charging under the definition of alternative fuels in [Kansas' current Alternative-fuel Tax Credit](#). Electricity and other clean alternative fuels, such as hydrogen and natural gas, were included in the State's definition of alternative fuels prior to July 1, 2007. We would like to see them returned to the list of allowable fuels under the existing credit along with propane, ethanol blends, and biodiesel blends. In addition, we would like to see the credit for fueling infrastructure be made available to businesses other than C-corporations and allow it to be used by small business owners such as LLCs, partnerships, and S-corporations.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee and ask for your support of tax credits for fueling infrastructure for electric and alternative fuel vehicles. We offer our assistance to the Committee as a non-fuel-biased resource in Kansas. Please reach out if you would like additional information on alternative fuel vehicles or fueling infrastructure: Tami Alexander – Tami@MetroEnergy.org

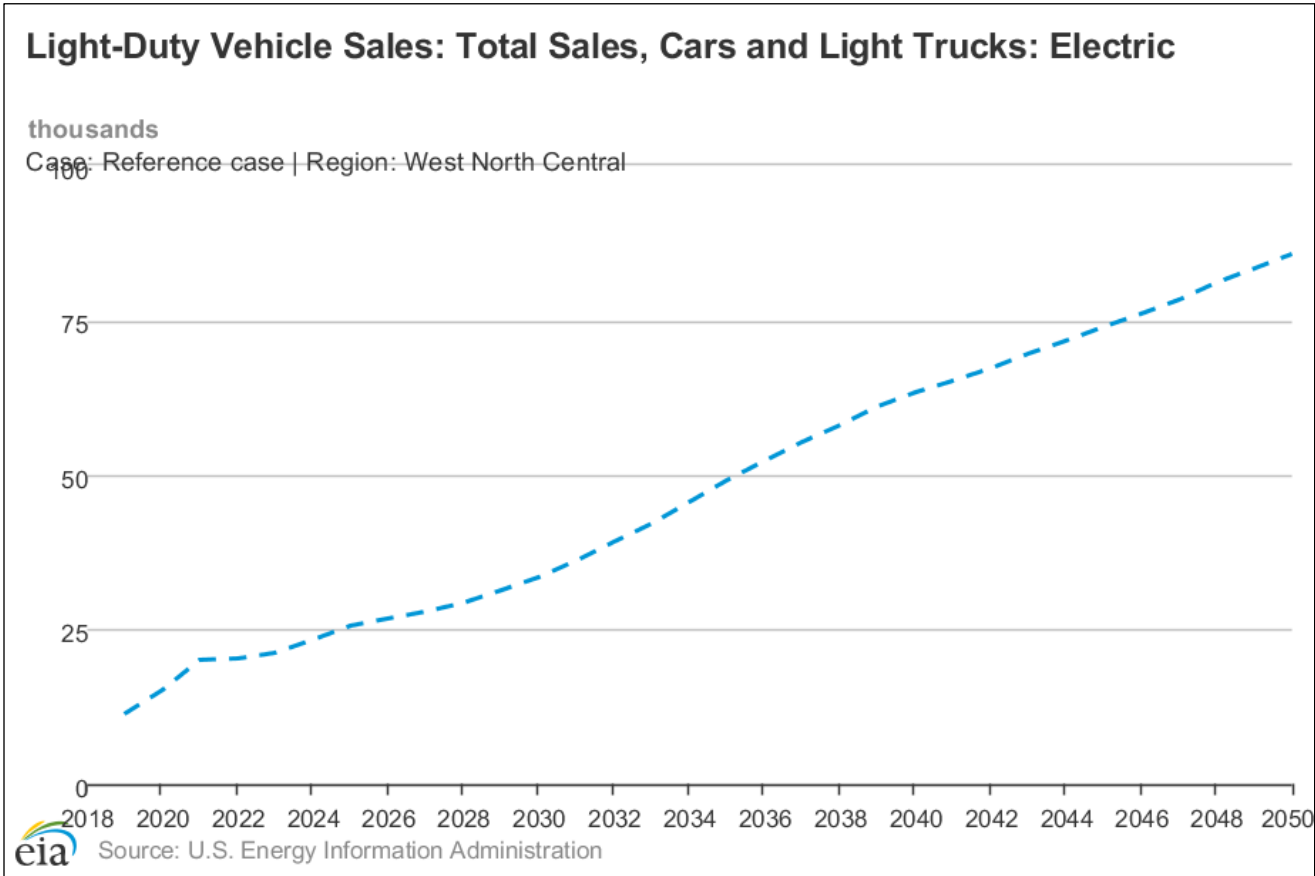
Please see attached sheet for reference information.



REFERENCES



Alternative Fuels Data Center: Maps and Data <https://afdc.energy.gov/data/10303>



EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2020: Projected EV sales in the West North Central Region (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota).



KANSAS

Public Opinion on Climate Change, 2020

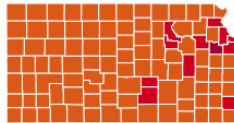
Public opinion data come from the Yale Climate Opinion Maps (YCOM), which are based on a statistical model that employs nationally representative Climate Change in the American Mind (CCAM) surveys conducted between 2008 and 2020. The model combines geographic, census, socioeconomic, and political data with CCAM survey data collected by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication (combined n > 25,000). For more information about the survey question wording and methodology, please visit YCOM: climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us

Policy Support

Provide tax rebates for energy efficient vehicles or solar panels



Kansas



Kansas counties

Color Legend



For help / questions, please contact: climatechange@yale.edu

Yale Program on Climate Change Communication 2020

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