

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Chairman Doug Green
Written Proponent Testimony on House Bill 202
Submitted by Ted Ford
President, Ohio Advanced energy Economy
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Chair Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, my name is Ted Ford, President, Ohio Advanced Energy Economy. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as a proponent of Ohio House Bill 202.

Advanced Energy Economy (AEE) is a national association of businesses that provide advanced energy products and services, and companies that use those products and services. Advanced energy encompasses a broad range of innovative products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting energy needs today and tomorrow. Among these are energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, natural gas electric generation, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, biofuels and smart grid.

AEE supports a transition to 21st-century transportation solutions that provide better services for customers, create economic opportunity for workers, and enhance the competitiveness of American industry. Our Advanced Transportation Group (ATG) is comprised of approximately 20 members spanning the advanced transportation value chain that are focused on advanced transportation policy. Members include manufacturers of electric vehicles of different vehicle sizes -- from small, low-speed vehicles to large heavy-duty vehicles, charging infrastructure providers, grid integration solution firms, fleet operators, and companies providing supporting technologies and software services.

The EV market is growing rapidly in the United States, with sales up 81% between 2017 and 2018. The good news for Ohioans is that these vehicles provide substantial value to the population at large, including broad-based cost savings for ratepayers,¹ increased consumer choice amongst transportation options, enhanced American industrial economic competitiveness as major vehicle markets around the world electrify, improved national security from reduced dependence on imports of conventional fuels, and improved air quality. At the same time, EVs provide drivers with substantial performance improvements over conventional vehicles. The improvements range from financial – lower fuel and maintenance costs mean that the total cost of ownership for an electric vehicle is lower than that of a comparable internal combustion engine vehicle² – to the driving experience – EVs offer a smoother and quieter ride with instant torque allowing the vehicles to accelerate faster.³

While the benefits are substantial and sales growth is beginning to reflect that reality, the EV market is still nascent, making up just over 1% of light-duty vehicle sales nationally. Improved battery technology is rapidly increasing the range of EVs, but the lack of widespread charging infrastructure still creates a sense of “range anxiety” among consumers who fear becoming stranded with a dead battery far from a charging station. To overcome this barrier to EV adoption, Ohio needs a systematic and realistic plan to address charging infrastructure and related issues. AEE supports HB 202 as an important step toward this goal and we urge the Committee’s approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

¹ Analysis supporting this conclusion in a variety of states, including Michigan, Illinois, Colorado, Florida, Arizona, Pennsylvania, New York and others can be found at: <https://mjbradley.com/publications/>; <https://www.rmi.org/insights/reports/electric-vehicles-distributed-energy-resources/>; <https://www.ethree.com/tools/electric-vehicle-grid-impacts-model/>

² Constance Douris, "The Bottom Line On Electric Cars: They're Cheaper To Own," Forbes, October 24, 2017, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/constancedouris/2017/10/24/the-bottom-line-on-electric-cars-theyre-cheaper-to-own/#6490ef7610b6>.

³ David Morris, "Tesla Veteran Explains How Electric Motors Crush Gas Engines," Fortune. November 17, 2015. <http://fortune.com/2015/11/17/electric-motors-crush-gas-engines/>