



# Ohio Environmental Council [Action Fund]

**Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
Proponent Testimony  
House Bill 202 (K. Smith, Weinstein)  
June 25, 2019**

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee; I am Miranda Leppla, Vice President of Energy Policy for the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on House Bill 202.

Our organization, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, works to secure healthy air, land and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC Action Fund supports House Bill 202 because it is a forward-thinking bill that will prepare Ohio to support the coming wave of electric vehicles (EVs) and ensure our electric grid is poised to handle the rapid shift toward these emissions-free modes of transportation. Additionally, HB 202 is an important step to ensuring that everyone in our state will benefit from low and zero emissions vehicles by creating an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study Committee (“Study Committee”) to strategically think about infrastructure needs across the state. The growing adoption of EVs is a benefit to all Ohioans, as it reduces air pollution coming from our transportation sector, and our state should be encouraging adoption of EVs across the state.

While most owners of electric vehicles currently charge their vehicles at home, and urban areas have significant build out of charging stations already, Ohio needs to ensure that as EVs become the primary personal vehicle of the future we have EV charging stations built along highways and other transit routes, at workplaces and especially in rural areas of the state. Ohio’s electric distribution utilities are offering rebates and incentives to commercial businesses to install charging stations, and even without these rebates, retail stores and public parking garages are beginning to offer charging as a paid or free service. However, HB 202 is necessary to ensure we have a comprehensive grasp on where infrastructure is already built out and where it is still needed in order to create a cohesive charging network across Ohio.

The competitive market will likely continue to fill the gap for commercial businesses, but may not cover a real market need for rural charging, charging along interstates or highways, or at office parks. Because of this gap in the market, there is a real need for HB 202 to ensure Ohio’s EV charging infrastructure is more connected, and the Study Committee created by HB 202 would be tasked with helping to identify already-existing infrastructure build-out, funds that have been allocated toward the EV charging infrastructure effort, identification of where gaps exist, and development of recommendations on how best to ensure equitable expansion of this infrastructure across Ohio. With a cohesive EV charging infrastructure in place, Ohioans will be comfortable knowing they can traverse the state--both in cities and into rural areas of the state.

House Bill 202 will ensure all Ohioans have access to and are able to benefit from innovative electric vehicle technology that will decrease emissions from the transportation sector and improve air quality.

Additionally, the Study Committee will be tasked with studying and developing recommendations regarding other emerging issues relevant to use of electric vehicles in the state, and the OEC Action Fund urges those other topics to include examination of the appropriate amount for annual registration fee for EVs, plug-in EVs and hybrids, as well as adoption of electrified modes of public transportation to ensure cleaner air in urban centers, and electric school buses to ensure our children are breathing cleaner air while being transported to and from school and other school events.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, House Bill 202 is an important step toward ensuring Ohioans are able to embrace electric vehicles and easily traverse the entire state in these emissions-free and low-emission vehicles. Additionally, the Study Committee will provide important recommendations for these technologies that will help Ohio lower our transportation emissions, and ensure innovative EV technology and charging infrastructure is able to be seamlessly integrated into our electric grid. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and we look forward to working with you on this bill.