



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

**House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Written Proponent Party Testimony — House Bill 202
William Murdock, Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
October 1, 2019**

Chair Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony to you today regarding MORPC's support of House Bill 202.

My name is William Murdock and I am the executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission or MORPC. MORPC is a regional council of 70 local governments across Central Ohio's rural, suburban, and urban areas. We provide programs, services, and funding related to transportation, land use, data, sustainability, and economic prosperity. MORPC's membership consists of cities, townships, counties, villages, and other government entities.

One of MORPC's chief public policy goals is to achieve an advanced, inclusive, and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world. Central Ohio is poised to be a leader in innovative and connected technologies with Smart Columbus, the Smart 33 Corridor, and so many local and private efforts.

It is for these reasons that MORPC supports House Bill 202, which would establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Committee. While most owners of electric vehicles currently charge their vehicles at home, and larger metropolitan areas have significant build out of charging stations already, Ohio needs to ensure that EVs are not only a luxury in certain pockets of the state. One of the most common reasons consumers hesitate in buying electric vehicles (EVs) right now is the lack of public charging infrastructure. While some in Ohio are beginning to address this issue, most of our state remains severely underserved. This blunts the potential for EVs to save consumers money, reduce air pollution and drive down costs for electricity consumers over time. The EV market in Ohio is growing. 1,630 EVs were purchased in Ohio in 2016, 2,091 in 2017 and 4,456 in 2018. This marks a rise of 28.3% from 2016 to 2017 and 113.1% from 2017 to 2018.

While we are a little concerned with the EV market in the short term, due to the annual license fees that were added in the state transportation budget, we are confident that we can efficiently deploy EVs across are state, along with the associated charging infrastructure. A critical first step to achieving this goal is the establishment of the Electric Vehicle Study Committee. The committee would assist in examining state and local governments efforts to construct the necessary infrastructure and develop a set of recommendations. Without a plan, EV charging

could be clustered inefficiently with costly impacts to the grid, with major stretches of critical highway corridors and portions of Ohio simply left out and unserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written proponent testimony. We look forward to continuing our important work together. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at 614-233-4101 or at wmurdock@morpc.org with any questions or whenever MORPC can be of assistance.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Murdock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Murdock, AICP
MORPC Executive Director