

February 10, 2020

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Senate Ways and Means Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

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Dear Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Blessing, III, Ranking Minority Member Williams and the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee:

The Columbus Partnership offers our sincere support of Senate Bill 257, which authorizes tax incentives for the purchase of plug-in electric motor vehicles and charging stations.

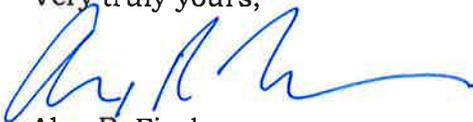
The Columbus Partnership is a non-profit, membership-based leadership organization of more than 75 chairpersons, chief executive officers, and senior executives from the region's leading businesses and institutions. Our members include 15 Fortune 1000 CEOs, as well as the leaders of the nation's largest university and world's largest research and development organization. Through our membership and other ally organizations across Central Ohio, the Columbus Partnership upholds a shared vision to make Columbus the most prosperous region in the United States.

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Columbus as the first-ever winner of the Smart City Challenge, which included \$50 million in grant funding and the designation as America's Smart City. As Ohio looks to become the most innovative state in the Midwest, we have the opportunity to make significant improvements to incentivize innovation in mobility that focuses on economic development. The tax credit for electric vehicle purchases and charging stations will help accelerate the entire State of Ohio to become a model for connected communities of the future.

Since 2017, more than 3,000 electric vehicles have been sold in the Columbus Region—a 600 percent growth in the local electric vehicle market. Already, Smart Columbus has facilitated \$15 million of investment in charging infrastructure and installed 900+ charging ports with private and public partners, including 70 major employers in the Region. During the next 10 years, original equipment manufacturers are investing more than \$300 billion in electric vehicles, and Ohio has the momentum to be a major beneficiary of this growth. Columbus has shown that Ohio has the potential to become a leading player in the electric vehicle industry and expand our State's innovative capacity.

Ohio's mobility ecosystem depends on creating the right building blocks for innovation. Tax incentives that focus on developing a modernized electric grid and regional networks of electric vehicle chargers will not only improve lives but also drive economic development opportunities to the state. It is our hope that the Senate Ways and Means committee will consider SB 257 as a catalyst for economic growth for every person in Ohio.

Very truly yours,



Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO

ARF/gb