



Ohio Environmental Council

[Action Fund]

**Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Proponent Testimony - Written Only
House Bill 47 (Loychik)
May 11, 2021**

Chairman Baldrige, 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 47. While I wish I could present this testimony in person to be able to have a more meaningful dialogue with you, the ongoing pandemic prevents me from safely doing so, and virtual testimony is still not an option.

Our organization, celebrating its 52nd anniversary this year, works to secure healthy air, land and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC Action Fund supports House Bill 47 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 47 is an important step to ensuring that more Ohioans could benefit from zero emissions vehicles by incentivizing the build out of EV charging 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 47 is necessary to ensure we have more investment in our charging network 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.

In conclusion, House Bill 47 is an important component to ensure Ohioans are able to embrace electric vehicles and easily traverse the entire state. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and we look forward to working with you on this bill.