**Ford Motor Company Testimony on SB 257**

**Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**Tuesday, February 11th, 2020**

Madam Chair Roegner and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 257 which would provide for tax credits on the purchase and installation of a charging station for an electric vehicle. Ford supports the efforts of the Ohio legislature to find ways to increase consumer adoption of electric vehicles. Ford has announced our commitment of $11.5 billion to vehicle electrification which includes a robust and reliable charging infrastructure network. We recently revealed the all-electric Mustang Mach-E SUV with a targeted EPA-estimated range of at least 300 miles. In addition, we are also working on a fully electric Ford F-150 that will be available in the future.

Overcoming the anxiety around owning a battery electric vehicle and the barriers of electrified vehicle adoption is crucial. Ford announced that Mustang Mach-E owners will have simple and easy access to the FordPass Charging Network – the largest public charging network in North America offered by automotive manufacturers with over 12,000 charging stations, including fast charging and more than 35,000 charge plugs.

Currently 80% of all-electric vehicle drivers currently charge at home. Additional motivators for encouraging at home 220-volt charging infrastructure improvements will aide in the adoption of battery electric vehicles.

Thanks to enhanced battery technology “range anxiety” is being resolved with vehicles offering over 300 miles range. However, the additional cost of the vehicles themselves can also be an impediment to customers choosing this technology. While battery prices have come down significantly in recent years, there is still an incremental cost to purchase an electrified vehicle. Customers make the economic calculus and with current low gas prices, they often times decide against this technology, despite its environmental advantages and long-term savings.

Vehicle electrification is a key future technology which is why we support Senate Bill 257. This bill will help increase consumer adoption of electric vehicles by offering a tax credit for the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations. A robust EV tax credit sends a strong signal that the State of Ohio is a leader on EV adoption as tax credits remain essential for EVs to compete in the marketplace and greatly help to ease the concerns consumers have on switching to this new type of vehicle. In addition, it shows that Ohio is serious about supporting and attracting to Ohio the companies that are working on building the electrification ecosystem.

Thank you to Senators O’Brien and Rulli for their leadership and recognition of this important issue, and to this committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony.