SB 257
Proponent Testimony
Clean Fuels Ohio
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Good Morning, Chair Roegner and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. My name is Tyler Fehrman, and I am here today representing Clean Fuels Ohio as a proponent of Senate Bill 257. Thank you for allowing me to address you today.

Clean Fuels Ohio is a non-profit that focuses on the promotion of inherently cleaner, alternative fuels being used throughout Ohio. Whether that be biodiesel, compressed natural gas, propane, hydrogen, or electricity – we believe that the future of transportation – whether personal, public, or commercial – is in alternative fuel sources that not only diversify Ohio’s fuel usage, but contribute to a safer, cleaner environment – as well as economic development opportunities for our State.

Senate Bill 257 provides the initial steps for encouraging the purchase and use of Electric Vehicles in Ohio. These much-needed tax incentives will encourage Ohioans to consider purchasing these vehicles and embrace the new, cleaner, more advanced technology that is an electric vehicles.

The electric vehicle market has come a long way since its inception. What began as a small, niche market for those wanting to try out something new has grown into an important and valuable market segment nationwide. There are currently dozens of electric vehicles that are commercially available, and from well-known manufacturers ranging from Chevrolet to Kia, Jaguar to Tesla – with even more being developed. Between 2019 and 2022, the number of battery electric (BEV) and plug-in hybrid (PHEV) models available to U.S. consumers will increase from 55 to 81.  And, by 2021 there will be at least five EV models available for under $30,000 (MSRP) with a range of up to 250 miles. There will be even more models with a net cost of under $30,000 when current federal, state, and local incentives are factored in.

These electric vehicles are not just the small, compact cars you may associate with the market, either. The range of vehicle types available will also increase to include sport utility vehicles (SUV), cross-overs, and pick-up trucks.

Recently, Ford Motor Company has announced the development and release of an F-150 pickup truck that runs completely on electric with a towing capacity unseen by its gasoline-powered counterparts. Tesla is developing the “cybertruck,” and other companies – like Lordstown Motors here in Ohio with the Endurance Pickup – are developing other similar vehicles that meet the travel, towing, and other useful application needs of people on a daily basis.

From 2016 to 2017, national electric vehicle sales increased by over 29% and, from 2017 to 2018, they increased again – but, this time by 74.5%. It is our expectation, that it will continue to do so as these vehicles become more accessible. 1,630 EVs were purchased in Ohio in 2016, and 2,091 were purchased in 2017. This was a 28.3% sales growth. But, in 2018, 4,456 electric vehicles were purchased, a sales growth rate of 113.1% from 2017 to 2018. It is expected that these trends will continue as new models from more OEMs become available and public awareness grows.

In Ohio, we are faced with a unique and powerful opportunity. The advent of Lordstown Motors and other electric vehicle projects coming to the Mahoning Valley – now aptly referred to as “Voltage Valley” by many in the alternative fuels world – offers us the opportunity to become a worldwide hub for the research, development, and manufacturing of electric vehicles and electric vehicle components. This provides not only the potential for encouraged, widespread use of electric vehicles – which leads to incredible environmental benefits – but it also opens the doors for massive economic development opportunities here in our state, for an area that desperately needs it.

By passing this bill and incentivizing the purchase of electric vehicles – both by individuals and businesses alike – we will take the first steps to making this advanced technology more accessible to Ohioans, and make the market in Ohio more attractive to companies looking for a place to bring their business. On behalf of myself and Clean Fuels Ohio, I urge you to support this bill – and, in doing so, support the economic and environmental future of the people of Ohio.

Thank you.