

February 11, 2020

House Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Steven Johnson, Chair  
Kansas State Capitol, Room 112-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
RE: HB 2499

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Daniel Lofland, and I am an Energy Efficiency & Solutions Specialist with the Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (OEC). Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is a distribution cooperative serving retail electric customers, and the largest in the state of Oklahoma.

This testimony discusses the construction of a statewide electric vehicle charging station network. OEC views the public charging network much like a loss-leader. Having a public access electric vehicle charger network is the crucial first step to encourage our rate-payers to feel comfortable with buying electric cars. A key hurdle to electric vehicle adoption is range anxiety, or generally the concern that the electric vehicle will run out of power. A comprehensive public network of charging stations alleviates this concern. We know that most consumers charge their electric vehicles at home, normally overnight. Due to OEC's (and other coops) rate structure, overnight load allows for high margin kWh sales, as it is generally a time when most consumers use very little electricity. This is important to any utility, as more "off-peak" kWh sales occur, such as via in-home electric vehicle charging, there becomes more flexibility in residential rate classes. At a certain point, this flexibility in rate structure lowers the over-all cost of power to all members. However, without a widespread public network of electric vehicle chargers, consumers won't purchase enough electric vehicles to make in-home charging sufficiently widespread to allow for such a structure.

The key initiatives to encourage electric vehicle adoption for OEC are:

- Strategically aligning with the technological leader, i.e. someone who has experience with building out statewide networks
- Public charging networks allow for more cars to be sold, which allows for more overnight, high margin sales; which could lead to more over-all lower costs of power
- Increases in electric vehicle sales will spur advancement in vehicle and battery technology, further enhancing future sales

We at OEC feel the development of a comprehensive, statewide EV charging network is not only critical for all EV buyers, but also as the benefits of electric vehicle adoption flow to our electric cooperatives, it ultimately becomes a benefit to all consumers within this state.

Kind regards,

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