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February 11th, 2020
Written Opposition Testimony on HB 2499
Before the House Taxation Committee
Submitted by J. Kent Eckles

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kent Eckles with the Kansas Petroleum Council and we appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments in opposition to HB 2499.

We support a competitive and equitable transportation sector, in which consumers can choose energy sources and technologies in a market that is free from government incentives that distort a level playing field. To be clear, API isn't opposed to EVs, but we are against policies that tip the scale in favor of one technology over another.

We encourage Kansas to develop transportation energy policies that allow consumer preferences and a competitive market to determine changes in the mix of energy sources required to meet societal needs.

EV charging infrastructure is currently only used by a small fraction of drivers, many of whom are wealthy enough to afford these more expensive vehicles. Using taxpayer money to subsidize EV charging infrastructure will force most Kansans to pay for something that they will likely never use or benefit from.

At the federal level, today, 83% of the tax credit goes to people who earn more than \$100,000 annually, and 60% earn more than \$200,000. The median household income in Kansas is \$57,422. Additionally, EVs account for less than 1% of registered vehicles in Kansas.

It is simply not in the public interest to advance policies that subsidize EV charging infrastructure at the expense of the average taxpayer.

Charging infrastructure – like EVs – is no longer a nascent technology in need of government incentives. EV technology has become a multibillion-dollar industry more than capable of achieving self-sustaining growth and developing necessary infrastructure without government handouts.

We urge the committee to not pass HB 2499.