



Renew Kansas Biofuels Association

February 13, 2024

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Proponent Testimony on HB 2783, prohibiting a state agency, city, or county from restricting the sale or use of motor vehicles based on the energy source used for the vehicles; allowing a state agency, city, and county to have their own purchase policies for motor vehicles.**

Chairman Carpenter and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2783. Renew Kansas Biofuels Association is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels processing industry.

The Kansas biofuels industry contributes to the Kansas economy, specifically to the rural areas of the state where our processing facilities are located. Approximately one-third of all the corn grown in Kansas is used as a direct input to Kansas-produced ethanol. In addition to providing a strong price support of Kansas grown corn, our industry provides well paid jobs for hundreds of Kansans across the state. The industry also pays millions of dollars in property taxes which help fund Kansas schools and local government services.

House Bill 2783 would prohibit state agencies and local units of government from regulating or restricting the use or sale of motor vehicles by the public based on the energy source used to power the motor vehicle. The bill would not prohibit the state, or local units of government, from purchasing only certain types of vehicles.

It is unfortunate that legislation supporting the free market economy, such as House Bill 2783, is necessary. However, multiple states have already passed legislation or regulations prohibiting future sales of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines or with tailpipe emissions.

In fact, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has approved a measure requiring all new cars, SUVs, and pickup trucks sold in the state to generate zero tailpipe emissions by 2035. The state's Advanced Clean Cars II rule requires zero-emission vehicles to represent 35% of new cars and trucks by 2026, 68% by 2030, and then 100% by 2035.

Similarly, the following states have announced they will adopt the California model, and others are likely to follow: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington.

Other states, such as Vermont, Colorado, Virginia, and Minnesota have considered similar measures. Likewise, President Biden has set a goal of having half of all new vehicle sales in the U.S. be electric powered by 2030.

Kansas must take a stand now to clarify that it is the public policy of our state to support the petroleum and biofuels industries in our great state. We must continue to support free market economy principles and push back against wrong-headed and dangerous laws and regulations which would limit consumer choice, especially in areas as critical as infrastructure and personal modes of transportation.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2783. This bill represents sound public policy for the state of Kansas and Kansas agriculture. For the reasons stated, we would request that the committee advance the bill out favorably.