



## **Written Testimony in Support of HB2499**

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**For the House Committee on Taxation**

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Chairman Johnson and members of the House Committee on Taxation, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 2499. Evergy provides electricity to 1.6 million customers throughout Kansas and Missouri. As the state's largest electric provider, we support the expansion of electric vehicles and know that the availability of charging stations is crucial to that growth and reducing "range anxiety" among users. We support third-party efforts to participate in the build out of electric infrastructure and believe a tool like the limited-duration tax credit for installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations would be helpful.

Electricity as a domestically produced transportation fuel is already transforming our nation's transportation sector. Kansas is uniquely situated to be a key location for the build out of EV charging stations. As of August 2019, there were more than 1.3 million electric vehicles on U.S. roads. Still, this is a small percentage of the more than 270 million vehicles registered in the U.S. Using existing technology and energy grid infrastructure, the U.S. can diversify its transportation fuel mix to move both people and goods, ushering in an era of clean transportation, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and enhancing our country's energy and economic security.

In 2016, Evergy established its Clean Charge Network ([evergy.com/EV](http://evergy.com/EV)), consisting of more than 1,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the KC Metro area — more than any other city in the United States. Furthermore, in an effort to highlight the importance of charging stations to eliminating range anxiety for consumers wanting to drive electric vehicles, Evergy partnered with the Kansas Turnpike Authority late last year to install two DC fast charge stations and a level 2 station at Lawrence, Topeka and Wichita turnpike locations. In addition, increased electric vehicle use is one option for growing a utility's load factor and allowing fixed costs to be spread over a greater number of kilowatt hours, potentially helping to stabilize electric rates.

Thank you for considering HB2499 and the impact it could have on spurring growth in the EV industry in Kansas.