

DATE: January 29, 2021

TO: Kansas State House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

ATTN: Chairman Seiwert and Members of the Committee

FROM: Metropolitan Energy Center
Kelly Gilbert, Executive Director & KC Reg. Clean Cities Coordinator
Tami Alexander, Program Coordinator, Central Kansas Clean Cities

RE: Testimony on HOUSE BILL No. 2145

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HOUSE BILL No. 2145.

Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) is a nonprofit organization with a history of more than 35 years transforming energy use in the building and transportation sectors in Kansas and Missouri. Through the Kansas City and Central Kansas Clean Cities Coalitions, MEC has brought together public and private stakeholders to promote clean fuels, fuel efficiency, and new transportation technology. We have over 20 years of experience and expertise in working with alternative fueled vehicles of all types, including biofuels, gaseous fuels and hybrid electric and battery electric vehicles.

Transportation is fundamental to the Kansas economy and using electricity to power vehicles can have significant benefits. MEC would like to highlight below the benefits of simplifying the process for non-utilities to provide the public with electric vehicle (EV) charging stations which the language changes proposed by HOUSE BILL No. 2145 would provide.

- 1) Improves market access for local business owners:** Electric vehicles are here and are increasing in numbers. As the attached graph shows, regional adoption of electric vehicles will increase by more than 5 times in the next 30 years. HOUSE BILL No. 2145 will remove regulatory barriers that prevent local businesses, specifically convenience store and travel center operators, from providing their customers access to EV charging stations and will allow them the freedom to service their customers' evolving needs. MEC is currently working with stakeholders who are interested in installing EV charging stations on travel corridors, but at present are limited by the existing legislation.
- 2) Increases local and regional fuel sourcing:** Removing the barriers for non-utilities to install EV charging stations will expand the fuel infrastructure in Kansas and increase use of local resources. Fuel sourced locally from Kansas's high percentage of wind and natural gas electricity generation benefits our state economy as dollars spent fueling vehicles with electricity stay in Kansas.

- 3) **Increases competitiveness with neighboring states:** Eliminating the barriers to expanding Kansas’s fueling infrastructure will increase our state’s ability to compete with surrounding states. Colorado, Oklahoma and Missouri all allow for non-utilities to provide EV charging. If Kansas doesn’t also make this change, we could become a state that is bypassed by a growing number of EV drivers.
- 4) **Updates legislation for current technology:** As new technology is developed it is necessary to update existing legislation. When the existing legislation was written, the authors could not have anticipated the current use of electricity as vehicle fuel. The changes proposed by HOUSE BILL No. 2145 will update the regulations to allow EV drivers the same choice and availability of fueling options that drivers of gasoline and diesel fuel vehicles already experience.

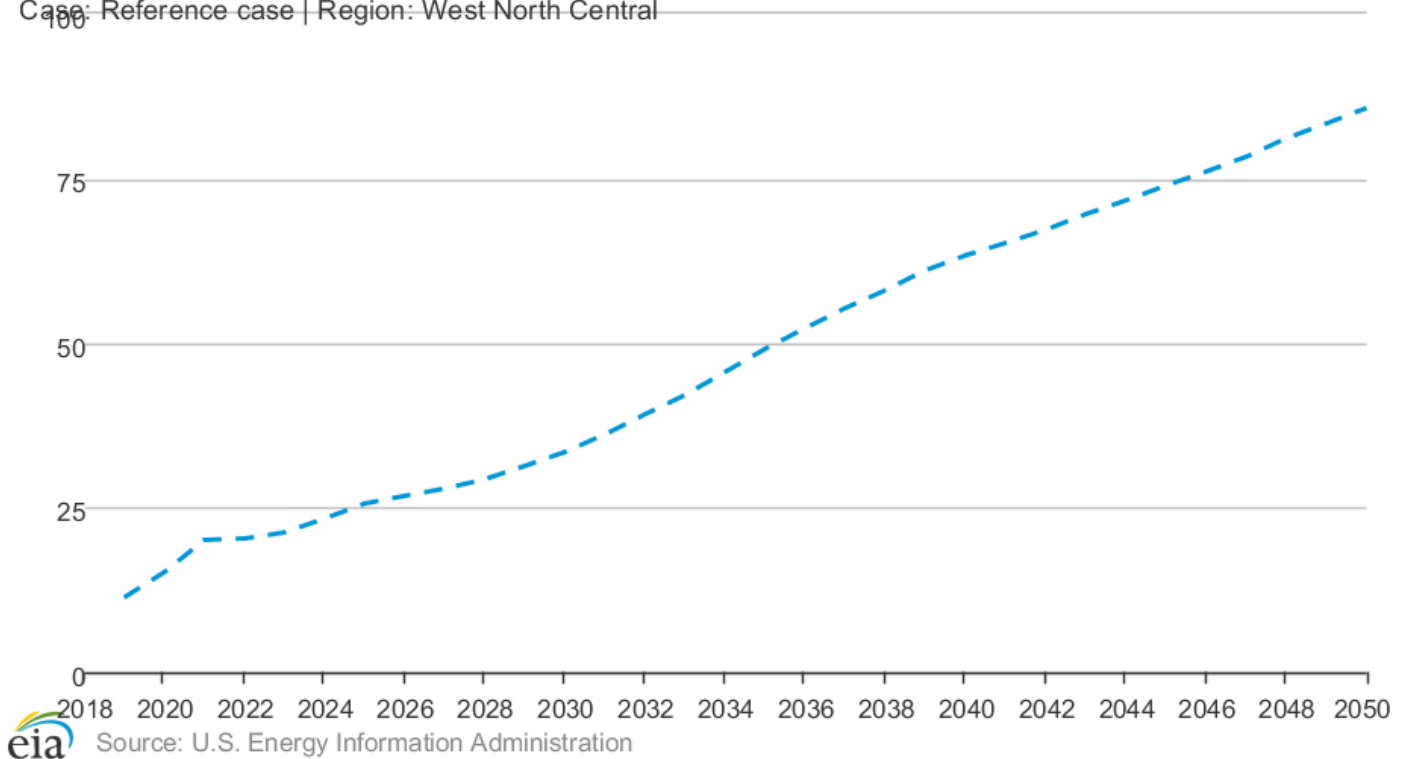
Due to the benefits of expanding the fueling infrastructure in Kansas, MEC supports HOUSE BILL No. 2145. We thank you for your time and for the invaluable work you do for our state. Please reach out to us if you would like additional information: Tami Alexander – Tami@MetroEnergy.org or Kelly Gilbert – Kelly@MetroEnergy.org

REFERENCES

Light-Duty Vehicle Sales: Total Sales, Cars and Light Trucks: Electric

thousands

Case: Reference case | Region: West North Central



EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2020 - Project regional growth in EV sales in the West North Central Region (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota).

