

March 12, 2019
Neutral Testimony SB 189
Dorothy Barnett, Executive Director
Climate + Energy Project on behalf of the Clean Energy Business Council



Good afternoon Chairman Peterson, and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. The Climate + Energy Project has been a strong advocate for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kansas since 2007. In 2016 we created the Clean Energy Business Council which represents more than 20 clean energy businesses and organizations across the state.

Today I'm here to express additional ideas for how we can move forward to address infrastructure and energy needs more collectively.

We believe the transportation solutions and the impact of Electric and Hybrid vehicles should be had in the broader context of a state energy plan. While today we're talking about highway infrastructure, most of the legislative session several of you have been considering the rising costs of electricity due in part to flat or declining electric load. EVs present an opportunity for utilities to sell more kWhs, thus spreading the fixed costs of their infrastructure among more electricity sales.

Where electric vehicles are concerned, there are costs and benefits, and we should consider both. Hence, the need for a Kansas energy plan.

In Iowa, their state energy plan was created by the State Energy Office under the direction of the Lt. Governor, with input from economic development, transportation, and energy agencies all working together to ensure coordination as Iowa planned for their energy future. We believe SB 69, the comprehensive electricity study bill, despite not including a state energy plan, will adequately explore the costs and benefits of electric vehicles and provide relevant information to the transportation committee which can be considered in the context of a larger conversation and vision for energy and transportation for the state of Kansas.

I know this body is eager to find solutions for funding transportation infrastructure needs and we believe those investments are necessary. However, I urge the body not to act impulsively. Await the findings of SB 69 as it will provide more perspective and understanding about the impacts EVs will have on our transportation and electricity systems. Further, let's take the dialogue we're having today, and we're glad this body is talking about the role of electric vehicles, and include it in an energy planning process.

While we understand the current model of collecting motor fuels tax needs to be addressed to deal with our essential infrastructure needs, we would caution this body not to consider EV legislation in isolation.

Electric vehicles are going to bring about changes. Let's make sure we're sufficiently planning for those changes and adapting in reasonable, measured ways that provide the best opportunities for our transportation and electricity needs. Both are critical to the Kansas economy, and we should address them in a broader plan, not through reactionary policies.