

FROM THE DESK OF
PATRICA BEFFA-NEGRINI, PHD, RDN

July 19, 2022

Daniel Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket DE 21-078 - Petition for Electric vehicle Make-Ready and Demand Charge Alternative Proposal — Support for Settlement Agreement

Dear Chairman Goldner:

I am a resident of New Hampshire, living in the rural town of Nelson in Cheshire County and I am writing in support of the SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE MAKEREADY PROGRAM AND DEMAND CHARGE ALTERNATIVE RATE. This agreement is in the economic interest of the State of New Hampshire and its residents, small businesses, and industries.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are much less expensive to own than those that run on internal combustion engines. After the recent spike in gasoline prices and spending hours dealing with repair and maintenance services for my cars, I look forward to purchasing an EV in the near future. As a rural resident living in a hilly, cold climate, I and my family need public charging stations to make our EV purchase a practical one.

Some other points related to the economics of EVs that I have observed:

- I have seen EVs with out-of-state license plates on the side of the road in the Keene area where I do my errands. NH's economy depends on tourism, and visitors from out of state with EVs are not going to travel here if there is a risk from lack of access to chargers for their cars.
- I have spoken to several people who own EVs, most of whom are retired as I am. They sing high praises for their vehicles; in particular the low cost of maintenance. And they tell me they are seeing significant positive effects on their budgets, with the cost of charging an EV much lower than the cost of filling a gas tank.

- As a health professional, I am keenly aware of the detrimental health effects of air pollution, particularly for the elderly and those with asthma and heart conditions. Keeping NH's air clean will reduce physician and hospital visits, improve work and school attendance and productivity, and reduce air pollution related mortality. Supporting the use of EVs will help prevent Air Quality Action Days in New Hampshire. The *State of New Hampshire's 2020 Air Quality Update* asserts that fewer Action Days "could provide additional health valuation benefits, an average of \$1.6 million per year based on the past five years. Should the air quality get even cleaner than currently required, there will be additional benefits, up to \$3 billion per year in health-related benefits based on modeling."

It makes great economic sense to support EVs and their chargers in the State of New Hampshire. As more EVs are purchased, more affordably priced EVs and secondhand/used EVs will be available down the road for those on limited budgets who can least afford the volatility in the gasoline market. Please help support our personal freedom to choose to purchase electric vehicles by moving forward with the Electric Vehicle Make Ready Program and Demand Charge Alternative Proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,



Patricia Beffa-Negrini, PhD, RDN

CONTACT