

HB-1159, Modify Innovative Motor Vehicle Income Tax Credits**Jeri Sampson, Arvada**

My name is Jeri Sampson. I currently live in Arvada, although I have lived in Colorado since 1985, mostly around the front range. Like everyone else who has been around Denver for a while, I saw the brown cloud get better in the late 1980's and 90's as the EPA air quality standards were enforced. But now Colorado's beautiful bluebird skies are threatened again by air pollution and climate change.

I am urging you to support House Bill 1159. I bought a hybrid in 2017 because we were then living in Durango but traveling back and forth to Denver every other month or so. I wanted better mileage and also to help reduce air pollution. **Tax credits made that possible for me.**

According to many sources, including the EPA's own website, excessive ozone is a health risk. It has many causes, including emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents. But mainly, it's motor vehicle exhaust. **We westerners love our cars and are reluctant to use public transportation for whatever reason. Given Colorado's growing population and the increasing number of cars on the roads, one of the easiest and most effective ways to fight ozone and the return of the brown cloud is by increasing the prevalence of electric vehicles.**

In today's political climate, the federal government is doing everything it can to undo the progress made in improving air quality over the past few decades. Colorado needs to join the many other states that are fighting this by encouraging adoption and innovation of electric cars. We need to do this to get back on track for reducing ozone and other pollutants, instead of heading in the wrong direction.

The reason I feel so strongly about this issue is the same reason that we returned to Denver from Durango: namely, I have two grandkids living in Lakewood now. I want them to be able to grow up in a Colorado where they can see the mountains and play outside without having the air itself affect their health. Both of my daughters drive all over the metro area, and one of them commutes daily to Boulder. They both want to buy electric vehicles in the coming year, but without the tax credits, they won't be able to.

Thank you for listening.

Nate Bohach, Denver

Hello Chairwoman and members of the committee. My Name is Nate Bohach and I'm here representing myself. **I'm a resident of Colorado and an Air Force veteran, as well as a graduate student at the University of Denver in the field of environmental science and the owner of a plug-in hybrid, which I purchased using tax credits in my home state of Minnesota. I believe deeply that addressing climate change is a necessity, and Colorado**

needs to do everything we can to reduce carbon pollution. That includes transitioning to electric vehicles as quickly as possible in order to create a sustainable future and protect our Colorado way of life. This should not be a bipartisan issue, because no matter where you live in Colorado, we are all breathing the same air.

Air quality in this beautiful state has gone down drastically as inversely respiratory issues has increased. Air quality affects everyone, no matter your political stances, and air quality issues tend to hurt marginalized persons such as children, the elderly and low income areas more than others. **When I swore my oath to protect this country from enemies both foreign and domestic, this includes the phenomenon we are experiencing now called climate change. I want to keep protecting the people of this country even though I am no longer in the service, by supporting environmentally based bills and making Colorado a leader for all.**

This is why I urge you to support Support HB 19-1159, Modify Innovative Motor Vehicle Income Tax Credits. Thank you.

Sandra Pierce, Denver

My name is Sandra Pierce. I am a resident of Denver, and I am speaking on behalf of myself and my community. I want to urge you to pass House Bill 1159.

Transportation is the biggest source of carbon and air pollution in the U.S. As a Coloradan, I want to save money at the gas pump, see more electric vehicles in this state, and I take advantage of the tax incentives for electric cars.

This issue is personally important to me because my health is affected by pollution and ozone. I have asthma and it has worsened since moving to Denver 4 years ago. Carbon pollution is the cause of our changing climate.

Jared Mandelbaum, Denver

My name is Jared Mandelbaum, and I am a Denver resident. I am here to ask you to pass HB-1159 to Modify Innovative Motor Vehicle Income Tax Credits.

The Denver Metro and North Front Range region has consistently not met federal ozone standards for nearly a decade now, and that is largely due to vehicle emissions, a conclusion that is corroborated by a recent joint NCAR and NASA study. Thousands of new residents, most of them with cars, move here each year. Our nearby mountains, which we all love, and which attract so many of these new residents, have geomorphological consequences; they cause temperature inversions, which trap pollutants at lower elevations, where most of us live.

With this in mind, EPA research has made two things abundantly clear. 1. Emissions from

vehicles cause tangible human health problems. They lead to asthma and damage all of our respiratory systems, with children being particularly vulnerable to lifelong breathing problems. And 2. More electric vehicles on the roads will dramatically improve air quality and help to curb these health issues.

Residents will continue to use cars, so if zero-emission vehicles do not become more prevalent, harmful vehicle emissions will only increase. What makes this issue even worse is that the mal-effects of these emissions are not distributed equally. Marginalized communities - those that are predominantly non-white or low-income in particular - are disproportionately impacted, because busy roads and highways often run straight through them. To ignore the necessity for more electric vehicles would be to sentence all of us, marginalized communities in particular, to continually worsening air quality.

If the climate change implications are not enough, I at least hope that my health, and the health of all other residents in this region will be enough to convince you. Thank you for your time.

Kenneth Scissors M.D., Grand Junction

As a physician and EV owner from Grand Junction, I have many reasons to support House Bill 1159. Automobile emissions are harmful to human health and the environment, including being major contributors to our planet's worst threat—climate change. **More electric vehicles are mandatory for our health and safety, and extending the tax credits will increase the benefit for countless Colorado families.**

My Chevy Bolt EV is saving me money as well as reducing my carbon footprint. In one year I have saved 3 ½ tons of CO₂ from going into the atmosphere, not to mention other pollutants. By charging it with solar and wind power exclusively it is truly pollution-free. **I get the equivalent of 125 miles per gallon and have no oil changes or tune-ups to pay for. I get over 300 miles per charge,** which I do overnight in my garage every few weeks. As a bonus, it is really sporty and fun to drive.

EV's are gaining traction in Grand Junction. We even have a club and are entering the Downtown car show. Across the state, EV sales are growing at a rate of about 50% per year. Tax credits make EVs affordable for consumers, and achievable for our state, given the growing popularity of EVs. For these reasons, I urge the committee to pass HB 19-1159.

Thank you for considering my comments.