



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Regina Birdsell
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 517, An Act establishing an electric vehicle charging stations infrastructure commission.

Dear Chair Birdsell and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 517. This bill would establish an electric vehicle charging stations infrastructure commission. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill and requests that NHDES be added to the proposed commission.

Motor vehicles are the primary source of oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds and are also the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Electric vehicles (EV) help to reduce these emissions. All other New England states and many other Northeast states have adopted policies and regulations that will result in increased adoption of EVs in our region in the coming years. New Hampshire is behind, as compared to neighboring states, in our planning and installation of infrastructure to support EV travel to and within New Hampshire. The commission established by SB 517 would help to ensure strategic investment in EV charging infrastructure that will help to minimize the “range anxiety” that often hinders the purchase of these cleaner advanced technology vehicles. In addition, with the pending availability of funds from the Volkswagen settlement¹, this commission could provide appropriate input to ensure effective use of those funds.

NHDES, through our work with our counterparts across the Northeast states and through our leadership of the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition², has extensive knowledge about and access to resources relative to the use of EVs, including issues associated with supportive charging infrastructure. We believe that NHDES can provide valuable information and resources to the proposed commission and requests we be added to the commission. We have discussed this with the sponsor who is agreeable to this addition. NHDES further notes that the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs might also provide a valuable perspective to the work of this commission.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/volkswagen-clean-air-act-civil-settlement>

² <https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/>

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In summary, the commission established by SB 517 will help to ensure availability of charging infrastructure that will enable adoption of this advanced technology by New Hampshire residents and attract EV owners across the region to New Hampshire.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 517. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me (robert.scott@des.nh.gov, 271-2958) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator, Technical Services Bureau (rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov, 271-6749) of the Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 517: Senators Watters, Feltes, Cavanaugh, Avard, and Fuller Clark