



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Steven Smith  
Chair, House Transportation Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 203  
Concord, NH 03301

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

Dear Chair Smith 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.

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 availability of funds to New Hampshire from the Volkswagen settlement<sup>1</sup>, 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 Coalition<sup>2</sup>, 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 on this topic and look forward to working with the commission.

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.

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

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

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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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](mailto:robert.scott@des.nh.gov), 271-2958) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator, Technical Services Bureau ([rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov](mailto:rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov), 271-6749) of the Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

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

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