



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 575, An Act relative to electric vehicle charging stations.**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 575. This bill would establish requirements for, and restrictions on, electric vehicle charging stations. 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. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill and the amendment proposed by Senator Watters.

Many Northeast states have adopted policies and regulations that will result in increased adoption and use of EVs in our region in the coming years. To support New Hampshire residents who purchase cleaner EVs, and to support travel to and throughout New Hampshire by EV adopters in neighboring states, New Hampshire must plan accordingly. SB 575 seeks to ensure that the State of New Hampshire is taking appropriate steps in the near term to support the use of EVs in the state and ensure the orderly development of supporting charging infrastructure.

This bill compliments SB 517 that seeks to “establish an electric charging stations infrastructure commission” by addressing a number of issues that will help ensure that development of charging infrastructure in the near term, before the work of the SB 517 commission will be completed, provides the needed services and also meshes with the work being done throughout the Northeast. For example, SB 575 requires the NH Department of Transportation to ensure uniform signage along our highways to show travelers where EV and hydrogen fueling stations are located. The need for uniform signage has been a topic of discussion by the states and provinces that participate in the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference as well as several multi-state staff working groups that are focused on transportation issues. SB 575 also requires the public utilities commission to begin consideration of numerous issues that could, if left unaddressed, delay or thwart investment in EV charging infrastructure.

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In summary, SB 575 seeks to ensure uniformity and consistency for EV drivers across the region. This will instill greater confidence in those considering an EV and help to speed the adoption of these cleaner vehicles, resulting in improved air quality for all our residents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 575. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact 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,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

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cc: Sponsors of SB 575: Senators Watters, Birdsell, Feltes, Gannon, Avard, and Fuller Clark, and Representatives Sprague and Oxenham