

April 5, 2017

Senator Martin Looney
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Joe Aresimowicz
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building, Room 4105
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Senator Bob Duff
Senate Co-Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Matthew Ritter
House Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4106
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Senator Len Fasano
Senate Co-Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building,
Legislative Office Building, Room 3402
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Themis Klarides
House Republican Minority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Senator Kevin Witkos
Deputy Senate Republican President Pro
Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear President Looney, Senators Fasano, Duff and Witkos, Speaker Aresimowicz, and Representatives Ritter and Klarides:

We write to express our strong support for HB 7097, “An Act Concerning the Licensing of New and Used Car Dealers.” HB 7097 will allow manufacturers of electric vehicles to sell directly to consumers in the state.

Connecticut’s climate goals, as articulated by the Legislature in the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), can most cost-effectively be achieved by substantial electrification of the transportation sector. Analysis by the Governor’s Council on Climate Change shows that, by 2050, nearly all of the passenger vehicles in the state must be powered by 100% clean electricity to stay on track to hit GWSA targets.¹ Connecticut needs to do everything it can to increase electric vehicle sales to meet these mandates.

We believe that allowing direct sales of electric vehicles by manufacturers would increase public awareness, encourage build-out of public charging infrastructure, and provide motivation for

¹ DEEP, GC3 Meeting Slide Presentation, Slide 7, March 7, 2017, available at http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/climatechange/gc3/3_7_17_gc3_meeting/gc3_meeting_3_7_2017.pdf.

existing dealerships to offer more electric vehicles than they already do.² Direct sales would also provide jobs at each sales location that will open in Connecticut as a result of passage of HB 7097, and, through an increase in electric vehicles, create jobs in related trades such as installation of charging equipment.

Connecticut is the only state in the Northeast that prohibits direct sales of electric vehicles. Upon adoption of this bill, consumers will have additional freedom to select a car that meets their daily needs and provides a support structure with which they are comfortable. No longer will Connecticut consumers need to travel to Massachusetts, New York, or Rhode Island to purchase an electric vehicle of their preference. This will also create greater tax revenues for the state, which is all the more important during these difficult budget times.

On behalf of our organizations' tens of thousands of members across the state, we urge you to enable more options for the Connecticut residents to purchase electric vehicles by supporting HB 7097.

Sincerely,

Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition Members Supporting H.B. 7097:

- Acadia Center
- Citizens Campaign for the Environment
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment
- ConnPIRG
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Clean Water Action
- Drive Electric Cars New England
- Energy Solutions, LLC
- Environment Connecticut
- Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition
- Hamden Land Conservation Trust
- People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE)
- Proton OnSite
- Plug In America
- RENEW Northeast
- Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter
- Solar Connecticut, Inc.
- Tesla
- Westport Electric Car Club

² Sierra Club, *Rev Up Electric Vehicles, Multi-State Study of the Electric Vehicle Shopping Experience*, available at http://sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/uploads-wysiwig/1371%20Rev%20Up%20EVs%20Report_09_web%20FINAL.pdf.

Other Organizations and Businesses Supporting H.B. 7097:

- Becker + Becker
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Connecticut Sustainable Business Council
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- League of Conservation Voters Connecticut
- Milford Economic Development Commission
- Mohegan Sun
- National Resource Defense Council (NRDC)
- New Haven Leon Sister City Project
- North Haven Auto Body
- People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE)
- Public Citizen
- Renewable Energy Association of Connecticut

CC: Members of the General Assembly