

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: \$150 billion Transportation Electrification Federal Stimulus Proposal

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell:

In response to the economic crisis precipitated by the pandemic (and the ongoing climate crisis), the 30 members of the Transportation Electrification Partnership (TEP) in April 2020--joined by 47 other businesses, labor, and organizations in June 2020--proposed a \$150 billion stimulus proposal to Congressional leaders to restart our nation's economy, put Americans back to work, and clean our nation's air to protect public health by investing in EV manufacturing, zero emissions public transit, charging infrastructure, workforce development, and startup innovation, in particular those founded by women and people of color. Job creation is at the forefront of our proposal, with an estimated 2.3 million jobs that would be created while helping America build its leadership on EV manufacturing, supply chain, and deployment.

Our stimulus proposal also reflects the Biden Administration's Build Back Better Plan, including the deployment of 500,000 new EV charging stations, by prioritizing supporting advanced vehicle, battery and supply chain manufacturing and strengthening America's EV infrastructure. Additionally, in the last few months, several major automakers have announced plans to open EV production facilities in states including Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee. There is also growing realization that the U.S. electric grid will need to be upgraded in order to accommodate the mass adoption of electric vehicles, and that there is a need to secure more of our supply chain, such as lithium, domestically.

The undersigned coalition of over 100 companies, organizations, and local governments from 18 states reiterate the call for Congress to invest \$150 billion in federal stimulus funding into much-needed zero emissions vehicle manufacturing and innovation, infrastructure deployment, public and active transit, job training and startup and small business innovations.

Based on research from the economic advisory firm HR&A, we estimate that the proposed \$150 billion in stimulus could create 2.3 million jobs across the sectors included in this proposal. Distributed proportionally across the US in targeted communities, this type of investment is critical to providing immediate economic stimulus and job creation, as well as to creating a foundation for future economic development while creating more resilient communities.

In doing so, we will improve air quality and protect public health, given that studies have shown breathing polluted air makes individuals more susceptible to viruses, including COVID-19. These investments will help communities across our great nation benefit from cleaner air over the long-term, along with safer streets and quieter neighborhoods.

The attached “*Keeping America Working, Protecting Public Health, & Strengthening our Communities*”—prepared by and submitted to Congressional leaders under cover dated April 27, 2020 from the Transportation Electrification Partnership (TEP)—outlines a set of strategies and investments we urge you to consider for federal economic and infrastructure stimulus. As expressed in the letter from TEP Chair & Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator CEO Matt Petersen, “In addition to job creation, economic growth, and technological innovation, this proposal can help reduce air pollution, improve public health, ensure equitable access to charging and EVs, protect vulnerable populations, and lessen the impact of future epidemics.”

The \$150 billion in recommended actions include:

1. **Zero Emissions Vehicle Manufacturing, Assembly, and Adoption - \$25 billion:** Investing in the manufacturing, assembly, and adoption of (EVs) of all types and sizes (on the ground, in the water, and in the air) via tax credits, scrap and replace programs, grants and loans (including utilizing the existing USDOE ATVM program which has nearly \$18 billion in authorized capacity).
2. **Zero Emissions Infrastructure Investment - \$85 billion:** Investing dedicated funding for infrastructure that will last dozens of years, will employ tens of thousands of Americans, and will support the massive deployment of zero emission transportation solutions. The funded infrastructure includes charging for electric vehicles and equipment of all types and sizes, useful to individuals, businesses, and government operators across the country; adding utility electrical capacity to enable robust charging; and increasing the supply of renewable energy and building grid resilience. Key to success is also unlocking private capital by optimizing existing economic tools (e.g., New Markets Tax Credits, CDFIs, etc.).
3. **Zero Emissions Public and Active Transit - \$25 billion:** Investments in all forms of electric transit, enabling safer and complete streets to encourage active transit, improve air quality, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
4. **Workforce Development and Job Training - \$12.5 billion:** Investment in training, paid internships and pre-apprenticeship and state-approved joint-labor management apprenticeship programs for the underemployed and unemployed, including veterans and formerly incarcerated, to build EVs, install and maintain charging infrastructure, work for cleantech startups, and more.
5. **Innovation Ecosystem, Cleantech Startups, and Related Small Businesses - \$2.5 billion:** Supporting innovation and cleantech startups and small businesses—including dedicated resources for those founded by women and people of color—via direct support, incubators/intermediaries, and shovel-ready pilots in low-income communities.

This coalition also supports extending the tax credits for the alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credits--known as the 30C tax credits--which will help close a significant portion of the funding gap that currently exists for public level 2 and DC fast charging infrastructure.

Finally, we urge Congress to adopt the attached federal stimulus investment plan while prioritizing the distribution of funds to applicants that commit to high-quality wages, benefits, training and a targeted hiring plan for individuals facing barriers to employment. In cases where funds are being allocated to relevant agencies, we recommend prioritization for those that utilize a best value contracting framework (e.g., U.S Employment Plan for public purchasing processes, Construction Careers Policy, etc.).

Implementing the above strategies will help rebuild the economy in a way that will create hundreds of thousands of high-quality jobs, restart the economy and accelerate growth, support entrepreneurs—including underrepresented founders—and the innovation economy, reduce air pollution, and protect vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to advance this proposal.

Sincerely,

Matt Petersen, President & CEO
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