



JUNEAU ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

February 20, 2020

Senator Click Bishop
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau AK, 99801

RE. Juneau Electric Vehicle Association support for CSSB 115 version K to provide electric vehicle owners an equitable contribution to highway funds.

Dear Senator Bishop,

The Juneau Electric Vehicle Association (JEVA) is a non-profit chapter of the Electric Auto Association. JEVA represents the many Juneau area, electric vehicle owners and users. Juneau has consistently ranked as one of the higher per-capita electric vehicle cities in the US where we roughly have between 400 to 500 EV owners in Juneau. Our temperate weather and relatively low cost of electricity make owning an electric vehicle a cost-effective transportation choice. JEVA has been instrumental in developing public-private charging partnerships in Juneau for community-wide charging stations at Level 2 (240 Volt) and Level 3 (480 volt + fast charge) levels. JEVA has privately procured all the Level 3 fast charger charging stations in Juneau and has provided two Level 3 chargers to the City of Sitka, electric utility. We are pleased to see other Southeast Alaska and Railbelt communities follow Juneau's lead to increase electric vehicle use in Alaska. We are also proud that many State legislators and elected officials in Alaska drive electric vehicles including our Alaska Congressman, Don Young.

The Electric Auto Association and JEVA are careful to evaluate and not support legislation that targets Electric Vehicles in a punitive manner that would discourage adoption and growth of emission-free and lower-cost transportation. Likewise, we support legislation that encourages electric vehicle ownership. Electric vehicles are zero carbon (when electricity is derived from Alaska renewable energy), clean, efficient and provide a proven and demonstrated lower life cycle cost to own and operate.

JEVA has evaluated the CSSB 115 Version K and finds that it is equitable in its treatment to electric vehicle owners in that the EV owners shall equitably share in the proposed increase in motor fuel tax via a corresponding increase in motor vehicle registration fees. Although we do not have unanimous consensus from our membership, the vast majority state that this is fair and supports this legislation as currently drafted. While nobody likes to have their taxes raised, Alaskans deserve safe and reliable roads. We have evaluated the draft CS 115 version K and find that the \$100 biennial registration fee for electric vehicles and a \$50 biennial registration fee for plug-in hybrid vehicles is reasonable and

comparable to the increase that would simultaneously occur to the Alaska motor fuel tax for Alaskans that drive and operate internal combustion engine transportation. We also appreciate that these additional registration fees are wisely dedicated in your legislation to the special highway fuel tax account such that these additional fees will, in fact, go to repairing and maintaining Alaska's road system.

EV owners value the community premium that we provide the Alaska public with cleaner Alaska air and the economic value that EV owners provide by keeping Alaska energy dollars "local" utilizing power produced from our Alaska utilities and power generators. We ask that you consider these environmental and economic benefits of electric vehicle transformation in future legislative bills and deliberation that encourage Alaska utilities with public-private partnerships to provide our highways with future charging stations in their service area to provide safety, encourage EV adoption and extend driving range for electric vehicles.

Thank you for allowing the Juneau Electric Vehicle Association the opportunity to provide public comments on SB 115 and to share some Alaska knowledge on the continued growth of electric vehicle use in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Duff Mitchell
JEVA Co-Founder, Secretary, and EV owner since 2014
Juneau, Alaska