

Statement for Ways & Means Member Day
Representative Haley Stevens (MI-11)
June 4, 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify on the important work being done in this Committee.

My colleague, Dan Kildee, is leading an effort in the Ways & Means Committee to expand the tax credit for electric vehicles with H.R. 2256, *The Driving America Forward Act*, and I'd like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of this credit to the competitiveness of automakers in the United States.

The data already shows that the EV tax credit is working – the sales of electric vehicles increased by more than 80 percent in 2018 alone, and the prices of electric vehicles are becoming more affordable for working-class families.

Despite this progress, there's more work to be done.

Right now, only about 3% of the vehicles purchased in the United States are electric vehicles. The current 200,000 per-manufacturer cap limitation needs to be expanded to encourage greater adoption of these green vehicle technologies.

We need U.S. consumers to buy these electric vehicles so we can continue to grow electric vehicle production in the United States and remain competitive in the manufacturing of this technology.

China accounts for 60% of global electric vehicle sales and production. The investments to build new electric vehicles that Chrysler, Ford and General Motors just announced in Michigan are a drop in the bucket compared with the investment likely headed to China to meet the soaring consumer demand for electric vehicles there.

In addition to promoting competition in the electric vehicle space, I would like to advocate for maintaining and expanding other tax credits to promote clean energy.

In April, I sent a letter to Chairman Neal requesting for this Committee to take up legislation to provide long-term certainty for a slate of clean energy tax incentives that would help combat the growing climate crisis and support American jobs in growing clean energy industries.

The letter, signed by over 100 members of the Democratic Caucus, called for extending and expanding policies such as incentives for wind and solar energy, clarifying the tax code for energy storage technologies, incentives for energy efficiency in homes and commercial buildings, and policies to reduce industrial emissions.

As we transition to a sustainable 21st century economy, these valuable tax incentives will help businesses, including Michigan manufacturers, lead the future of clean technology by encouraging investment and innovation in clean electricity, clean transportation, and energy efficiency.

We need to seize hold of the opportunity to take on climate change by making major investments in our clean energy infrastructure through the tax code while creating good paying jobs in the United States.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my district's priorities on this Committee's great work and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee.