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CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Support for SB 21

January 2021

Testimony of the League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc.
Before the Senate Environment and Energy Committee
151st General Assembly

The League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) urges the members of this Committee to favorably consider SB21, relating to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging.

This Act would incentivize the use of EVs by allowing members of the public to charge their EVs at EVSE, Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment, on state property. The state would be allowed to charge a reasonable fee for this service not to exceed the cost of electricity and maintenance expenses.

Having multiple EVSE charging locations is beneficial to those of us who own/lease EVs. It lessens the perceived “range anxiety” issue. In reality, there are already plenty of EVSE now, so I feel perfectly comfortable driving from one end of our state to the other on a full “tank” of electricity, which I “fill up” before leaving my house, where I have an EVSE. If, for some reason, my battery runs a little low on a longer trip, I can stop at any number of EVSEs and get more charge.

However, as more and more Delaware citizens and visitors drive EVs, the need for more EVSE will increase. Thus, this legislation will show the world that Delaware is an EV-friendly, future-tech place to come, visit, shop and stay. As more EVs replace polluting gasoline/diesel vehicles, noise pollution will be reduced, and our air and water will become cleaner, attracting even more visitors and future homeowners. These EVs will reduce climate changing carbon dioxide emissions using grid electricity, or, if the EVs are charged by clean renewable energy, such as solar panels, as I do, they will reduce emissions to zero. This use of in-state renewable energy to power our vehicles will, in turn, result in reducing the energy currently being imported into Delaware from out of state, resulting in “keeping the money in the family”, improving the Delaware economy generally, leading to more jobs for Delaware.

We urge you all to drive electric and plug in to the future !

Testimony by Charlie Garlow, registered lobbyist LWV DE