



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
In support of H.2873 An act promoting zero-emission vehicles
By Tanya Roy, LWVMA Transportation Specialist
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports H.2873, An Act promoting zero-emission vehicles. This bill is a key step forward in encouraging environmentally-sensitive transportation through cost-effective zero-emission vehicles. It promotes the build-out of critical infrastructure and consumer incentives needed to encourage and support the expanded usage of such vehicles.

The League is very concerned about the harmful health and environmental effects of the Commonwealth's traditional modes of transportation. Over half of all carbon emissions in Massachusetts are generated from the transportation sector. It is the only sector where emissions are higher today than they were in 1990. Having more electric vehicles on the road would lessen the harmful effects on the environment emanating from transportation.

Incentivizing the use of zero-emission vehicles through an effective rebate program is an important aspect of this bill. Rebates would defray the cost for consumers of purchasing or leasing such vehicles. There is no doubt that electric vehicles are a vital technology for Massachusetts, however, they are too expensive for many residents. Rebates will render these vehicles affordable for a broader swath of the Commonwealth's population and lead to more widespread use.

The League believes that the bill's requirements to provide necessary infrastructure to make more widespread electric vehicle usage feasible and to offer consumer incentives to make electric vehicle usage more accessible are critically important. These steps include requiring the Department of Energy Resources (DER) to help municipalities develop programs allowing residents to install charging stations; allowing power companies to offer variable rates to consumers; and stipulating that DER and the Department of Transportation identify public charging station locations.

Transportation and climate change pose significant challenges to the Commonwealth, and the League firmly believes these must be addressed without further delay. This bill is a significant step in the right direction.

The League, which represents 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, urges the Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy to report this bill favorably in order to secure enactment this session.

Thank you for your consideration.