



**Written Testimony of  
Westar Energy and KCP&L  
OPPOSED  
Before the House Transportation Committee  
On HB 2529  
February 17, 2016**

In 2012, Westar Energy and KCP&L testified before House Energy & Environment on a bill that would have imposed an electricity highway fee on electricity sold at recharging stations. Although today's bill, HB2529, deals only with increasing the annual registration fee on electric vehicle (EVs), both Westar and KCP&L remain opposed at this time to adding to the cost of ownership of EVs. The EV market in the United States, although making some inroads, still remains somewhat sluggish as suppliers try to get more EVs on the road.

The most recent statistics for the sale of EVs in Kansas reveal that in 2014, only 190 plug-ins and plug-in hybrid EVs were sold in the state. Sales of EVs nationally continue to be modest. In 2015, total electric drive market share was a mere 2.87%, which was down from 3.47% in 2014.\* In addition, a drop in gasoline prices are currently pushing sales toward conventional vehicles.

We understand the proposed registration fees in HB2529 are intended to compensate for the loss of highway funds from the motor vehicle fuels tax receipts. However, because EVs still account for such a small portion of overall vehicle sales, we don't see such fees making much of an impact on fuels tax receipts. We also believe that any increase in the cost to operate EVs will keep sales sluggish. For this infant but growing segment of auto sales, we should not be adding to the cost of ownership.

As sales increase to a point where highway funds could be impacted to a greater degree, then such highway fees may be appropriate. However at this time, the sales of EVs should not be discouraged by adding fees to the cost of driving an electric vehicle.

\*Electric Drive Transportation Association