

Senate Transportation Committee
Testimony of Tad Kramar Opposing HB 2121
March 11, 2025

I am Tad Kramar from Big Springs, Kansas. I am testifying against HB 2121 because this bill would make electric vehicle (EV) owners pay an annual license fee of \$165, more than four or five times the amount that gas-powered vehicle owners pay, which is \$30 or \$40, depending on the vehicle's weight. I agree that EV owners should pay more to help maintain our roads, but four or five times more is clearly not fair, but punitive. People should not be punished for buying an EV.

In fact, EVs should be *encouraged*, not discouraged, because they do not emit harmful pollutants that gas-powered vehicles emit, including not only carbon dioxide, but various other gases and soot that contribute to serious respiratory diseases and even cancer, along with highly poisonous carbon *monoxide*. EVs are also quiet, so they emit no noise pollution. In addition, EVs avoid the environmental cost of oil drilling, refining and transporting. These major benefits of EVs should be considered when determining a fair annual license fee to charge.

Second, since EVs are often more expensive than their gas-powered counterparts, EV owners often pay higher sales and personal property taxes on their cars. By using electricity to charge their cars, they also pay any sales taxes or fees on the electricity they purchase. These higher taxes and fees paid by EV owners should also be considered when determining the annual license fee.

Third, studies have shown that the average EV driver only drives about half as far per year as the average gas-powered engine driver, which means that EVs generally cause much less wear and tear on the roads. This is another factor that should be considered in determining the annual license fee.

The current annual license fee of \$100 for EVs is 2 ½ to 3 times the fee for gas-powered vehicles. Considering all these factors, it would be very unfair to increase the EV fee even more. If more revenue is needed for our roads, please consider fairer sources of revenue, such as increasing taxes or fees on heavy trucks, which really tear up the roads.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against HB 2121.

Tad Kramar
kramarmt@hotmail.com
785-887-6768