Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker H-232, The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Republican Leader S-230, The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Republican Leader McConnell,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a rule that will effectively require that over two-thirds of all vehicles sold in the United States be fully electric in less than nine years. While we are supportive of the free market producing electric vehicles to satisfy a market need, this misguided EPA mandate would have an immediate, detrimental impact on the choices and affordability of cars, trucks, and SUVs available to our constituents. It also increases America's dependence on China.

The House Appropriations Committee recognized this threat and included language in the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill to prevent the EPA from using any funding to finalize or implement this unachievable mandate. We believe this limitation of funds must be included in any FY24 government funding package.

The EPA's proposed mandate will increase dependency on supply chains controlled by the Chinese government. Today, up to 90% of the electric vehicle battery supply chain relies on China.² The batteries that power electric vehicles require critical minerals, including lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and manganese -- and China processes 75% of these minerals. Additionally, China controls 76% of global battery cell production capacity.³ China's dominance is only expected to continue for the foreseeable future with 67% of all forecasted battery cell manufacturing controlled by China in 2032.⁴ In contrast to China, the United States has 7% of global battery production capacity.⁵

 $^{^{1}\,\}underline{\text{https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-greenhouse-gas-emissions-passenger-cars-and}$

² https://www.morganstanley.com/ideas/ev-battery-lithium-supply

³ https://www.politico.com/news/2023/06/23/u-s-and-europe-diverge-on-chinese-electric-cars-ee-00103186

⁴ Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, Battery Gigafactories USA 2022 Conference

⁵ https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/4eb8c252-76b1-4710-8f5e-867e751c8dda/GlobalSupplyChainsofEVBatteries.pdf

Not only would the EPA's proposed regulation hurt America's national security, but it would severely limit consumer choice for affordable vehicles that fit the needs of the average American. At a time of inflation, high interest rates, and rising costs, the last thing Americans need is to find both new and used vehicles unaffordable because of an EPA mandate.

The EPA mandate would also radically reshape America's auto industry and the types of vehicles in America's driveways. Battery electric vehicles may or may not be the right choice for everyone. If required to haul, drive long distances in areas without charging infrastructure, or live in a colder climate, a fully battery electric vehicle may not meet the needs of our constituents. In recent months, evidence is emerging that the current supply for electric vehicles is exceeding current demand. Americans – not the government -- should be able to choose which vehicle is right for them.

We strongly oppose the EPA's misguided attempt to force the production of a vehicle mix that fails to meet the transportation needs or fit within the budgets of American families. For over 100 years, the automobile has given Americans the freedom to live and work where they choose. EPA's proposed mandate goes too far too fast and will take that freedom away. To prevent this precipitous attempt to limit consumer choice, Congress should enact the provision included in the FY24 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill which prevents taxpayer funding from being used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles" and published May 5, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 29184), or any substantially similar rule.

Sincerely,

Lisa McClain

Member of Congress

Mike Braun

United States Senator

Pete Ricketts

United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer

United States Senator

Deb Fischer

United States Senator

⁶ https://www.axios.com/2023/07/10/unsold-electric-cars-are-piling-up-on-dealer-lots



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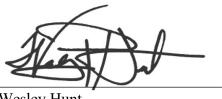
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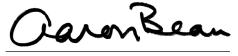
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