



ZERO EMISSION
TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on House Oversight and Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on House Oversight and Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: ZETA Supports Federal Fleet Electrification

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:

The Zero Emission Transportation Association (ZETA) is an industry-backed coalition of 60 member companies advocating for 100% electric vehicle (EV) sales by 2030. Transportation is the largest carbon-emitting sector in the United States and is responsible for 29% of our total carbon emissions.¹ We fully support the electrification of the United States' federal fleet, which will save taxpayer dollars, cut pollution, and improve public health.

On September 2, 2021, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform approved the implementation of the instructions of the concurrent resolution, which provides \$12 billion for the federal procurement of EVs. Of the approved \$12 billion, more than \$7 billion would be dedicated to electrifying and modernizing the United States Postal Service (USPS) fleet, and \$5 billion would be allocated to electrifying the General Services Administration's (GSA) fleet. To reach our shared goals of transportation-sector electrification, ZETA supports the House Committee on Oversight and Reform portion of the *Build Back Better Act* and encourages its final passage in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The lifetime operating costs of charging and maintaining EVs are as low as one-third of the comparable costs associated with internal combustion engine vehicles. The federal fleet includes more than 600,000 vehicles, of which the USPS delivery vehicle fleet owns 30%.² The savings potential for USPS delivery vehicles is even greater than that for other federal fleet vehicles because of their frequent stops, idling, fixed routes, short driving range, and convenient parking hubs. According to a recent study, by 2025, 40 percent of all non-USPS federal fleet vehicles and 97 percent of USPS vehicles can be replaced with EVs at a lower total cost of ownership (TCO) than comparable gas and diesel vehicles. Considering this estimate, the federal government could yield \$4.3 billion in savings through electrifying the USPS fleet.³ USPS vehicles are as old as 27 years on average—the “Long Life Vehicles” certainly live up to their name.⁴ With the legacy costs of operation and repair increasing each year, the funding in the proposed

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/transportation-air-pollution-and-climate-change/carbon-pollution-transportation>

² <https://d2d.gsa.gov/views/FY20FederalFleetReport/AgencyDashboard/d2d-portal-user/04ca7095-edf6-452d-aa92-fd0c3fa9575>

³ https://atlaspolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Federal_Fleet_Electrification_Assessment.pdf

⁴ <https://about.usps.com/news/statements/011516.htm>

budget reconciliation package serves as a pathway to acquiring new electric delivery vehicles for USPS fleets.

GSA provides safe, reliable transportation for federal agencies and their employees. This includes vehicles available for purchasing, leasing, or short-term rentals. Each year, more than 30,000 GSA vehicles are sold at auction, which allows purchases from individuals who are not federal employees.⁵ The procurement of EVs for GSA will substantially grow the secondary market for used EVs, making them more affordable to a larger group of consumers.

These federal fleet electrification provisions in the *Build Back Better Act* align with President Biden's recent Executive Order 14008, which calls for federal fleet electrification.⁶ Electrifying the USPS and GSA fleets will facilitate the electrification of other federal fleets, including the Department of Defense fleet. It will also create more opportunities for EV rental programs for federal personnel travel, among other novel cost-saving initiatives.

Electrifying the transportation sector is among our greatest opportunities to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change. The electrification of USPS and GSA fleets will remove hundreds of thousands of ICEVs from the United States' roads, bolster the EV manufacturing industry, and send a clear market signal that EVs are here to stay. Because of its lower operating costs, an electrified federal fleet will save taxpayer dollars, too. Furthermore, by cutting pollution, electrifying the federal fleet will improve air quality and boost public health outcomes, particularly in vulnerable frontline communities.

The USPS fleet is an obvious use-case for electrification, and American communities and postal workers deserve clean, reliable technology. We appreciate your consideration of the federal fleet electrification provisions in the *Build Back Better Act* and look forward to continuing to work with you to electrify the federal fleet.

Sincerely,



Joseph Britton
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⁵<https://www.gsa.gov/buying-selling/products-services/transportation-logistics-services/fleet-management/vehicle-purchasing>
⁶<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>