



ZERO EMISSION
TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: ZETA's FY2024 Transportation Electrification Appropriations Requests

The Zero Emission Transportation Association (ZETA) is an industry-backed coalition of over 60 member companies advocating for 100% electric vehicle (EV) sales by 2030. Our membership spans the entire EV supply chain and includes critical materials, charging companies, battery manufacturers and recyclers, utilities, and auto manufacturers, among others. ZETA is dedicated to ensuring that the United States wins the global clean transportation race and that American workers and consumers benefit as the EV industry expands. The transportation sector is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.¹ As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations process continues, ZETA offers the following recommendations to help accelerate the electrification of the transportation sector.

Energy and Water, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations

Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)

The Department of Energy plays an important role in advancing clean energy technologies like EVs. We ask the Committee to fund the ARPA-E program in the FY24 Energy and Water Appropriations bill at \$650,200,000 million, the amount requested in the Administration's FY24 budget.

ARPA-E was created to supplement private research investments in innovative energy technologies, and a fully funded ARPA-E program will deliver energy breakthroughs that can help grow the American economy. In the EV space alone, programs such as RANGE² and BEEST³ fund research into extending range, reducing battery costs, and decreasing U.S. reliance on foreign critical mineral supply chains. Continued research into these programs will drive down the upfront cost of EVs and help more Americans transition to zero-emission vehicles.

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

² <https://www.arpa-e.energy.gov/technologies/programs/range>

³ <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/technologies/publications/imagining-future-electric-vehicles-and-batteries-will-drive-them>

Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office (EERE)

The VTO focuses on rapid, widespread deployment of EV charging stations, R&D in electric drive systems and batteries, growth of the domestic battery supply chain, and the development of technologies to decarbonize on-road transportation, shipping, rail, and aviation. ZETA asks the Committee to provide \$526,940,000 for the VTO, the amount requested in the Administration's FY24 budget.

Mineral Sustainability within the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment (RDD&D) Program

Creating a robust, domestic critical mineral supply chain is vital for widespread EV deployment. The FECM Program focuses on technologies that reduce carbon emissions and environmental impacts from fossil fuel production. The program looks to improve rare earth element separation and technology while advancing research and development to address abandoned mines. Given the importance of critical minerals to EV batteries, renewable energy systems, and U.S. national security, ZETA supports the Administration's request of \$45,000,000 to resume program operations.

Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM)

The Department of Energy's Loan Program Office (LPO) oversees the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) program, which offers low-cost financing to manufacture fuel-efficient or zero-emission vehicles. ZETA asks the Committee to appropriate \$3,200,000 the parallel to the Administration's FY24 budget.

Financial Services on General Government Subcommittee on Appropriations

Electric Vehicle Fund

The General Services Administration (GSA) provides safe, reliable transportation for federal vehicle fleets. The Electric Vehicles Fund (EVF) allows GSA to procure ZEVs and covers the associated costs of charging infrastructure. ZETA recommends that the Committee include the \$50,000,000 million requested by the Agency for FY24. Ensuring these funds are transferable and incorporated into the Acquisition Services Fund will allow GSA to procure ZEVs as they become commercially available.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations

Clean School Bus (CSB) Program

The CSB Program funds replacement of existing diesel-fueled school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. EPA's initial rebate opportunity—announced in May 2022 at \$500 million⁴—was heavily oversubscribed leading EPA to increase the available amount to \$965 million⁵. Given the significant public interest in participating in this program and the opportunity

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-makes-500-million-available-clean-school-buses-through-epa>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-will-double-clean-school-bus-rebate-awards-nearly-1>

to drive further emissions reductions that directly affect children, Congress should allocate an additional \$300 million above IIJA levels for FY24.

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee on Appropriations

Low or No Emission (Low-No) Grant Program and the Bus and Bus Facilities Program

In addition to the amounts guaranteed in the IIJA for the Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities program for FY24, Congress should maintain the funding levels appropriated in previous years, including \$75 million for Low-No and \$175 million for Buses and Bus Facilities.

Conclusion

Electrifying the United States' transportation sector will generate large cost savings for American consumers and businesses, drastically reduce transportation-sector pollution, and significantly boost public health. Funding the federal programs and agencies mentioned in this letter is essential to driving an equitable, rapid, and sustainable transition to a fully electric transportation sector, and the appropriations process presents a key opportunity to accomplish this goal.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Albert Gore
Executive Director
Zero Emission Transportation Association (ZETA)