

2 December 2021

Congressmen and Congresswomen  
Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia S.C. 29211-1867

Dear Congressmen and Congresswomen,

My name is Connor Baltzegar and I reside in Chapin, South Carolina. I am a second-year undergraduate student at the University of South Carolina – Columbia.

I am writing this to ask for a consideration relating to electric vehicles and the health of the South Carolina marine ecosystems. There are many positives to the implementation of electric vehicles including environment, societal, and economic aspects. Because of internal combustion engine vehicles' exhausts, there is an increase in air pollution which can lead to other adverse effects. The Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE) is a phenomenon in which areas around urban developments have increased temperatures (up to 122°F). This occurrence is partially caused by the emissions that gas-powered vehicles have. Because electric vehicles have no exhaust, there would be no rise in temperature. Temperature can have a substantial impact on the health of a marine ecosystem. A rise in temperature of the water prevents the ocean to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> that is in the atmosphere. This, in turn, will lead to a phenomenon known as ocean acidification. Ocean acidification occurs when the ocean's pH balance becomes to acidic which then can lead to the death of many organisms that are hypersensitive to such environmental changes. By reducing the amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere by converting to electric vehicles, the planet would be much healthier and our marine environments would be safer from the threats they face.

Promoting the switch to electric vehicles can be quite simple. Like in Atlanta, Georgia, a mandate that allows "alternative-fuel cars" to use express lanes on the interstate could be an easy motivator for many to convert. Electric vehicles would also open new job opportunities. Electric vehicles require a new set of education and components to manufacture and repair.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my approach. Please send me a response if there is anything you are able to do.

Sincerely,

Connor Baltzegar