

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 508

To establish a working group on electric vehicles.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 1, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a working group on electric vehicles.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ELECTRIC VEHICLE WORKING GROUP.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Transportation and the Secretary of En-
8 ergy (referred to in this section as the “Secre-
9 taries”) shall jointly establish a working group (re-
10 ferred to in this section as the “working group”) to
11 make recommendations on the development, adop-

tion, and integration of light and heavy duty electric vehicles into the transportation and energy systems of the United States.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The working group shall be composed of—

(i) the Secretaries (or designees), who shall be co-chairs of the working group; and

(ii) not more than 25 members to be appointed by the Secretaries, of whom—

(I) not more than 6 shall be Federal stakeholders as described in subparagraph (B); and

(II) not more than 19 shall be non-Federal stakeholders as described in subparagraph (C).

(B) FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS.—The working group—

(i) shall include not less than 1 representative of each of—

(I) the Department of Transportation;

(II) the Department of Energy;

1 (III) the Environmental Protec-
2 tion Agency;

3 (IV) the Council on Environ-
4 mental Quality; and

5 (V) the General Services Admin-
6 istration; and

7 (ii) may include a representative of
8 any other Federal agency the Secretaries
9 consider to be appropriate.

10 (C) NON-FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—The working
12 group—

13 (I) shall include not less than 1
14 representative of each of—

15 (aa) a manufacturer of elec-
16 tric vehicles or the relevant com-
17 ponents of electric vehicles;

18 (bb) an owner, operator, or
19 manufacturer of electric vehicle
20 charging equipment;

21 (cc) the public utility indus-
22 try;

23 (dd) a public utility regu-
24 lator or association of public util-
25 ity regulators;

- 1 (ee) the transportation fuel-
- 2 ing distribution and retailer in-
- 3 dustry;
- 4 (ff) the energy provider in-
- 5 dustry;
- 6 (gg) the automotive dealing
- 7 industry;
- 8 (hh) the passenger transpor-
- 9 tation industry;
- 10 (ii) an organization rep-
- 11 resenting a unit of local govern-
- 12 ment;
- 13 (jj) a regional transportation
- 14 or planning agency;
- 15 (kk) an organization rep-
- 16 resenting State departments of
- 17 transportation;
- 18 (ll) an organization rep-
- 19 resenting State departments of
- 20 energy or State energy planners;
- 21 (mm) an expert in intel-
- 22 ligent transportation systems and
- 23 technologies;
- 24 (nn) organized labor;
- 25 (oo) the trucking industry;

1 (pp) Tribal governments;
 2 and

3 (qq) the property develop-
 4 ment industry; and

5 (II) may include a representative
 6 of any other non-Federal stakeholder
 7 that the Secretaries consider to be ap-
 8 propriate.

9 (ii) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretaries
 10 shall ensure that the members of the work-
 11 ing group selected under clause (i) shall in-
 12 clude—

13 (I) individuals with a balance of
 14 backgrounds, experiences, and view-
 15 points; and

16 (II) individuals that represent
 17 geographically diverse regions of the
 18 United States, including from rural,
 19 urban, and suburban areas.

20 (3) MEETINGS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The working group
 22 shall meet not less frequently than once every
 23 120 days.

24 (B) REMOTE PARTICIPATION.—A member
 25 of the working group may participate in a meet-

1 ing of the working group via teleconference or
2 similar means.

3 (4) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties
4 of the working group, the working group shall co-
5 ordinate and consult with any existing Federal inter-
6 agency working groups on fleet conversion or other
7 similar matters related to electric vehicles.

8 (b) JOINT REPORT AND STRATEGY ON ELECTRIC
9 VEHICLE ADOPTION, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHAL-
10 LENGES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, in consulta-
12 tion with the working group, shall submit to Con-
13 gress by each of the deadlines described in para-
14 graph (2)—

15 (A) a report on the status of electric vehi-
16 cle adoption and opportunities for and chal-
17 lenges to expanding adoption of electric vehi-
18 cles, including—

19 (i) a description of the barriers and
20 opportunities to scaling up electric vehicle
21 adoption nationwide, with recommenda-
22 tions for issues relating to—

23 (I) consumer behavior;

1 (II) charging infrastructure
2 needs, including standardization and
3 smart charging;

4 (III) manufacturing and battery
5 costs, including the raw material
6 shortages for batteries and electric
7 motor magnets;

8 (IV) the adoption of electric vehi-
9 cles for low- and moderate-income in-
10 dividuals and underserved commu-
11 nities, including charging infrastruc-
12 ture access and vehicle purchase fi-
13 nancing;

14 (V) business models for charging
15 electric vehicles outside the home, in-
16 cluding wired and wireless charging;

17 (VI) charging infrastructure per-
18 mitting and regulatory issues;

19 (VII) the connections between
20 housing and transportation costs and
21 emissions;

22 (VIII) freight transportation, in-
23 cluding local, port and drayage, re-
24 gional, and long-haul trucking;

25 (IX) intercity passenger travel;

1 (X) the need or potential for
 2 model building codes for charging in-
 3 frastructure;

4 (XI) the process by which gov-
 5 ernments collect a user fee for the
 6 contribution of electric vehicles to
 7 funding roadway improvements and
 8 potential investments in charging in-
 9 frastructure;

10 (XII) State and local level poli-
 11 cies, incentives, and zoning efforts;

12 (XIII) the installation of highway
 13 corridor signage;

14 (XIV) cybersecurity of charging
 15 infrastructure;

16 (XV) secondary markets and re-
 17 cycling for batteries, including battery
 18 collection initiatives;

19 (XVI) grid integration;

20 (XVII) energy storage; and

21 (XVIII) specific regional or local
 22 issues that—

23 (aa) are associated with—

1 (AA) the issues de-
 2 scribed in subclauses (I)
 3 through (XVII); or

4 (BB) urban or rural en-
 5 vironments; and

6 (bb) may not appear nation-
 7 wide, but hamper a nationwide
 8 adoption or coordination of elec-
 9 tric vehicles;

10 (ii) examples of successful public and
 11 private models and demonstration projects
 12 that encourage electric vehicle adoption;
 13 and

14 (iii) an analysis of current efforts to
 15 overcome the barriers described in clause
 16 (i); and

17 (B) a strategy that describes how the Fed-
 18 eral Government, States, units of local govern-
 19 ment, and industry can—

20 (i) set quantitative targets for trans-
 21 portation electrification;

22 (ii) overcome the barriers described in
 23 subparagraph (A)(i);

24 (iii) identify areas of opportunity in
 25 research and development to improve bat-

1 tery manufacturing, mineral mining, recy-
2 cling costs and battery collection, material
3 recovery, and battery performance for elec-
4 tric vehicles;

5 (iv) enhance Federal interagency co-
6 ordination to promote electric vehicle adop-
7 tion;

8 (v) promote electric vehicle knowledge
9 and expertise within State and local gov-
10 ernments;

11 (vi) prepare the workforce for the
12 adoption of electric vehicles, including
13 through collaboration with labor unions,
14 colleges and other educational institutions,
15 and relevant manufacturers;

16 (vii) expand electric vehicle and charg-
17 ing infrastructure—

18 (I) knowledge and use among
19 Federal, State, and local governments,
20 school districts, and private entities;
21 and

22 (II) adoption among the fleets of
23 the entities described in subclause (I);

1 (viii) expand knowledge of the benefits
2 of electric vehicles among the general pub-
3 lic;

4 (ix) maintain the global competitive-
5 ness of the United States in the electric ve-
6 hicle and charging infrastructure markets;

7 (x) provide clarity in regulations to
8 improve national uniformity with respect to
9 electric vehicles; and

10 (xi) ensure the sustainable integration
11 of electric vehicles into the national electric
12 grid.

13 (2) DEADLINES.—A joint report and strategy
14 under paragraph (1) shall be submitted by—

15 (A) for the first report, not later than 18
16 months after the date on which the working
17 group is established under subsection (a)(1);

18 (B) for the second report, not later than 2
19 years after the date on which the first report is
20 required to be submitted under subparagraph
21 (A); and

22 (C) for the third report, not later than 2
23 years after the date on which the second report
24 is required to be submitted under subparagraph
25 (B).

1 (3) INFORMATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries may
3 enter into an agreement with the Transpor-
4 tation Research Board of the National Acad-
5 emies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to
6 provide, track, or report data, information, or
7 research to assist the Secretaries in carrying
8 out paragraph (1).

9 (B) USE OF EXISTING INFORMATION.—In
10 developing the report and strategy under para-
11 graph (1), the Secretaries and the working
12 group shall consider existing Federal, State,
13 local, private sector, and academic data and in-
14 formation relating to electric vehicles and, to
15 the maximum extent practicable, coordinate
16 with the entities that publish that informa-
17 tion—

18 (i) to prevent duplication of efforts by
19 the Federal Government; and

20 (ii) to leverage existing information
21 and complementary efforts.

22 (c) ELECTRIC VEHICLE RESOURCE GUIDE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall elec-
24 tronically publish and update a resource guide to
25 provide information to increase knowledge about

1 electric vehicles and necessary charging infrastruc-
2 ture for consumers, State, local, and Tribal govern-
3 ments (including transit agencies or authorities,
4 public tolling authorities, metropolitan planning or-
5 ganizations, public utility commissions, and public
6 service companies), and businesses that sell motor
7 vehicles.

8 (2) INCLUSIONS.—A resource guide under para-
9 graph (1) shall include—

10 (A) information on—

11 (i) the general characteristics of elec-
12 tric vehicles (including passenger vehicles,
13 electric vehicles for public transportation,
14 school buses, and electric vehicles for com-
15 mercial use); and

16 (ii) the types of charging solutions
17 available to consumers, including, to the
18 maximum extent practicable, a digitally ac-
19 cessible compilation of existing mapping of
20 publicly available charging stations in the
21 United States;

22 (B) information on electrifying business
23 and government vehicle fleets;

24 (C) information on Federal grant pro-
25 grams available to State and local governments

1 for the purchase of electric vehicles for public
2 transportation;

3 (D) a description of current financial and
4 nonfinancial incentives for electric vehicles; and

5 (E) any other information that—

6 (i) a representative of industry or
7 State or local government requests to be
8 included; and

9 (ii) the working group recommends
10 and determines to be appropriate.

11 (3) USE OF EXISTING GUIDES.—In publishing
12 and maintaining the resource guide under paragraph
13 (1), the Secretaries and the working group shall con-
14 sider existing Federal, State, local, private sector,
15 and academic guides relating to electric vehicles and,
16 to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with
17 the entities publishing those guides—

18 (A) to prevent duplication of efforts by the
19 Federal Government; and

20 (B) to leverage existing information and
21 complementary efforts.

22 (4) RESOURCE GUIDE OUTREACH.—The Secre-
23 taries, in consultation with the working group, shall
24 conduct outreach to consumers, State, local, and
25 Tribal governments (including transit agencies or

1 authorities, public tolling authorities, metropolitan
2 planning organizations, public utility commissions,
3 and public service companies), and businesses that
4 sell motor vehicles through the websites of the De-
5 partment of Transportation and the Department of
6 Energy, social media, and other methods—

7 (A) to provide the resource guide under
8 paragraph (1) to interested stakeholders, in-
9 cluding relevant consumer groups and transpor-
10 tation-related organizations;

11 (B) to promote the use of electric vehicles
12 in both government and industry fleets; and

13 (C) to educate individuals involved in the
14 sale of motor vehicles about the benefits of elec-
15 tric vehicles.

16 (5) SUBSEQUENT RESOURCE GUIDES.—Not less
17 frequently than every 2 years for the duration of the
18 working group, the working group shall publish an
19 update to the resource guide under paragraph (1),
20 as appropriate based on technological innovation and
21 subsequent information.

22 (6) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretaries shall each
23 maintain the resource guide under paragraph (1) on
24 a designated website, which may be an existing

1 website, of each Secretary relating to electric vehi-
2 cles.

3 (d) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent prac-
4 ticable, the Secretaries and the working group shall carry
5 out this section using all available existing resources,
6 websites, and databases of Federal agencies, such as the
7 Alternative Fuels Data Center, the Energy Efficient Mo-
8 bility Systems program, and the Clean Cities Coalition
9 Network.

10 (e) FUNDING.—The Secretaries shall carry out this
11 section using existing funds made available to the Secre-
12 taries and not otherwise obligated, of which—

13 (1) 50 percent shall be from funds made avail-
14 able to the Secretary of Transportation; and

15 (2) 50 percent shall be from funds made avail-
16 able to the Secretary of Energy.

17 (f) TERMINATION.—The working group shall termi-
18 nate on the date on which the third report under sub-
19 section (b) is submitted.

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