

To: Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

From: Elaine O'Grady, NESCAUM Senior Policy Advisor

Date: March 17, 2015

Re: Testimony on House Bill No. 7009 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC AND ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) thanks you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 7009 – AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC AND ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES. NESCAUM is the regional association of state air pollution control agencies representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. A current focus of NESCAUM's work is facilitating the work of the Multi-State Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Initiative.

The Multi-State ZEV Initiative began on October 24, 2013, when Governor Malloy, along with the governors of California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) committing to have at least 3.3 million ZEVs, including plug-in hybrid, battery electric and fuel cell electric vehicles, operating on their roadways by 2025 and infrastructure to support these vehicles. The MOU recognizes accelerating vehicle electrification of light duty vehicles will reduce transportation-related air pollution (including greenhouse gases, smog-forming pollutants and mobile source air toxics), enhance energy diversity, save consumers money, and promote economic growth.

In May 2014, the eight ZEV MOU states released a Multi-State ZEV Action Plan that provides additional detail and specificity to achieve the commitments in the MOU. The Action Plan lays out concrete steps to foster efficient market development and a positive consumer ownership experience, and includes a research agenda to inform future actions.

The provisions of House Bill No. 7009 are in line with many of the actions identified in the Multi-State ZEV Action Plan. Enacting this bill into law and implementing the provisions will help to achieve the goals of the ZEV MOU signed by Governor Malloy. Moreover, the measures in this bill will serve to advance the electric vehicle market in Connecticut, which in turn will help to facilitate additional reductions in greenhouse gases and other motor vehicle pollution in future years, while putting Connecticut on a path toward energy independence, better health protections, and greater economic opportunities.

For these reasons, NESCAUM supports House Bill No. 7009 – AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC AND ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES. If you should require any additional information, please feel free to contact me by email at eogrady@nescaum.org or by telephone at (802)343-7221.