

## Congressman Andy Levin

### Testimony: Members' Day Hearing of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

April 14, 2021

Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> District as you work to reauthorize our nation's surface transportation programs. On behalf of my constituents, I would like to highlight the need for action on electric vehicle—or EV—charging infrastructure, on green transportation infrastructure more broadly, and on important local projects across Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> District.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once implemented a radical idea – a system of highways that would bring America together. It's time to expand on that idea and bring America's infrastructure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To do that, and to encourage our country's needed shift to EVs so that we may end our dependence on conventional vehicles, we must enact the EV Freedom Act, my bill to create a network of high-speed EV chargers across the national highway system in five years. This bill will create thousands of good-paying jobs with robust Buy America and prevailing wage requirements to protect hardworking Americans.

I applaud President Biden's commitment to expanding the nation's EV charging network and building rapidly a network of at least 500,000 chargers. I believe the EV Freedom Act is the policy to get us there. We can supercharge our economy, create the jobs of the future, further unify our country in a sustainable way and lead the world in green energy infrastructure.

But we cannot stop there.

The transportation sector represents the largest source of U.S. greenhouse emissions.<sup>1</sup> We need to tackle simultaneously the climate crisis and our crumbling infrastructure by taking a big, bold step towards total transportation electrification.

That is exactly what my BUILD GREEN Infrastructure and Jobs Act with Senator Warren, Senator Markey and Representative Ocasio-Cortez will accomplish. It invests \$500 billion over 10 years in state, local and tribal projects to jumpstart the transition to all electric public vehicles and rail and modernize the nation's infrastructure. Modeled after the Department of Transportation's successful BUILD grants program, this is the investment we need to expand transportation electrification with urgency and create good-paying union jobs.

Before I close today, I want to talk about the topic that is perhaps most urgent: investing in projects that will benefit communities in Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> district. My team and I have spent the

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2019). *Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

last month collecting input from our local communities on critical transportation projects in need of federal investment to get them across the finish line.

I'm so grateful to our local leaders, who identified projects varying from improvements in traffic signals, expanding bike lanes, resurfacing badly torn up roads, increasing drainage along roadways, building ADA sidewalk ramps, and expanding green infrastructure.

I look forward to sharing more details about these projects with the Committee and request, respectfully, that the Committee bear these priorities in mind when allocating funding to rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges while simultaneously ensuring our investments tackle the climate crisis with the urgency and boldness it requires.

Again, I thank you for your consideration and the chance to speak to you today. I look forward to working with you.