

**Opening Statement of David McKinley
Committee on Energy and Commerce
“LIFT America Act Hearing”
March 22, 2021**

As Prepared for Delivery

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. THIS MASSIVE, PARTISAN BILL SEEKS TO FURTHER CARRY OUT BIDEN’S ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA, AND PART OF THAT INCLUDES THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

AS AN ENGINEER, I’M FASCINATED BY THE INJECTION OF POLITICAL TIMELINES AND IDEOLOGY INTO THIS PROCESS.

FUNDAMENTALLY TRANSFORMING OUR ENTIRE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR AWAY FROM THE DEPENDABLE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE IS ONE THING BUT PERFORMING OPEN HEART SURGERY ON SUCH A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF OUR ECONOMY SHOULD DEMAND MORE THAN AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE. CONGRESS NEEDS TO GRASP THE CONSEQUENCES.

SO I WILL HAVE QUESTIONS LIKE:

- **HOW TO ENSURE A STABLE AND RESILIENT ELECTRIC GRID;**
- **THE IMPACT ON JOBS IN REFINERIES, PIPELINES, AND DRILLING;**
- **HOW TO DEVELOP THE DOMESTIC BATTERY SUPPLY CHAIN;**
- **WILL AMERICA HAVE A RELIABLE SOURCE FOR LITHIUM, COBALT, NICKEL, AND OTHER CRITICAL MINERALS;**

- **HOW TO REPLACE THE GAS TAX USED FOR ROAD MAINTANENCE;**
- **WHAT ABOUT THE TIME LOST IN RECHARGING STATIONS;**
- **ACCOUNTING FOR THE LACK OF TRADE-IN VALUE FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION VEHICLES;**
- **IS THIS ANOTHER UNFUNDED MANDATE?**
- **OR ADDRESSING THE INCREASE IN LANDFILL WASTE FROM BATTERIES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES;**
- **WOULDN'T THIS TRANSITION BE LESS STRESSFUL IF IT OCCURRED USING FREE MARKET FORCES?**

NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, CALIFORNIA AND MASSACHUSETTS ALREADY PLAN TO BAN THE SALE OF CARS WITH INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINERS AS EARLY AS 2035.

SO THIS DEBATE IS NO LONGER THE SAME AS LEGISLATION INVOLVING PLASTIC STRAWS AND STYROFOAM.

CONGRESS SHOULD FIND ANSWER TO QUESTIONS LIKE THESE, BEFORE RUSHING HEADLONG INTO SOMETHING SO TRANSFORMATIVE.

THANK YOU AND I YIELD BACK.