

Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE) to

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Written Opponent for HB 2783 – February 13, 2024

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2783 which prohibits the state, cities and counties from restricting the sale or use of motor vehicles based on the energy source used. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work and play in Johnson County.

Johnson County values home rule authority and the ability for local elected officials to conduct the business of their jurisdiction in a manner that best reflects the desires of their constituents for the maximum benefit to that community. As a health department, we have a few concerns with this bill:

- Technology and the understanding of its potential benefits and challenges changes at a fast pace. This bill removes the ability for local communities to adapt local policies and plans for any current or future technologies.
- It removes the ability for local communities to consider regulating a major source of emissions in highly populated urban areas for any purpose, including:
 - Improving public health
 - Meeting state and federal air quality standards
 - Reducing climate warming gases

Local government officials are elected to serve the needs and wishes of those communities. These officials weigh the advice of industry, experts, and citizens in making decisions to best serve all of those who live, work, or play in a community. HB 2783 flies in the face of home rule authority and would result in a state mandate removing the ability for Johnson County to govern its own affairs, in this case specifically on an area of environmental concern.

As such, JCDHE asks that the committee not recommend HB 2783 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

