



Montana Professional Firefighters

200 N. Montana Ave.

Helena, MT 59601



Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

I would first like to apologize for not being able to attend today's meeting in person. I appreciate all your consideration regarding how the increase in popularity of Electric vehicles could impact your Montana Firefighters. As I stated in my previous testimony, the increase of EV vehicles and lithium ion batteries presents several challenges Firefighters across the United States.

We believe that a rear license plate sticker placed in the upper right corner of the license plate would help us in identifying these vehicles in the field. There were several examples of this type of marking presented at the committee's last meeting. We are also hopeful that in time, these identification stickers could be linked to ERG data base allowing us to quickly gather information based on manufacture and model.

The American fire service's efforts to find answers to the challenges that these vehicles present has led to the innovation of new equipment and training. Our suggestion to the committee would be place a small, for example \$20 dollar insurance tax or registration fee on these vehicles. This revenue could then be placed into a grant program managed by the state for individual fire departments to apply for training and equipment based on their specific needs with regard to this hazard.

In closing, I would again like to thank the committee for including us in this important conversation and your support of your Montana Fire fighters.

Sincerely,

Ole Hedstrom

Montana Professional Firefighters