



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

January 25, 2021

Hon. Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7112 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Chairperson Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

As the Interim Director for the City of Providence Office of Sustainability, I respectfully write to express my support for H7112, requiring electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for new or expanding parking lots. Transportation accounts for roughly 30% of Providence's greenhouse gas emissions and 36% of emissions statewide. Charging infrastructure is critical to supporting the electrification of our transportation sector and to meeting Providence's clean air and climate goals.

Adoption of zero-emission vehicles in Rhode Island lags the rest of the country but numbers are increasing. In 2019, California had 7.9% of new vehicles register as zero-emission vehicles, yet Rhode Island registered only 1.3%, below the national average of 2%. However, there were 3,078 zero-emission vehicles registered in the state, a 552% increase from 2015. ZEVs account for 0.44% of the light-duty vehicles in Rhode Island, and there are 2.9 ZEVs per 1,000 Rhode Islanders in the state.

The City of Providence is leading by example with a target for 100% of the City's fleet to be renewable by 2040. To meet this goal, the City will have to accelerate EV procurement and install the corresponding charging infrastructure. Just last week, the City's fifteen new electric vehicles entered into service, distributed across our departments and divisions in Public Works, Parks, Police, Parking Enforcement, Fire Prevention, and Public Property. Twelve Level 2 charging stations were also installed in the Public Safety Garage as part of the infrastructure to support the charging needs of our fleet of Nissan Leafs.

The City has been thrilled to see the unveiling of more public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across our city, from the West Broadway Neighborhood Association on the West End to



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Capital Good Fund on Smith Hill. The Providence Public Safety Garage is also host to six public charging stations. These stations are an important resource, particularly for Providence residents that may not have access to charging at home or at work, and are the latest step in supporting electrification and reducing harmful GHG emissions and air pollutants across our city. The Office of Sustainability welcomes the continued communication with the Office of Energy Resources on the location, number, and distribution of public charging stations in our community.

H7112 will enable the expansion of EV charging stations in parking lots across the City, providing access to residents and visitors. Ultimately the City aspires for each of its neighborhoods to have charging infrastructure, with residents able to access charging infrastructure near their homes. H7112 will encourage investment towards that goal. H7112 is aligned with the recently published plan by the Office of Energy Resources, *Electrifying Transportation: A Strategic Policy Guide for Improving Public Access to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Rhode Island*, which centers equity and proposes to make charging infrastructure widely available to Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "emily koo".

Emily Koo  
Interim Director of Sustainability, City of Providence