

April 14, 2026

Senate Commerce Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Electrification Coalition Comments in Opposition on S2778**

Dear Chairperson Britto and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2778. This bill would both limit Rhode Islanders' access to electric vehicles (EVs) and the ability of new American EV manufacturers to sell to consumers here in Rhode Island. We urge you to vote no on S2778.

The Electrification Coalition (EC) is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the widespread adoption of EVs across the United States. Our primary goals are to advance policies and initiatives that reduce the economic and national security risks caused by an overreliance on oil, a single price-volatile commodity powering our transportation sector, while supporting and uplifting American jobs, automakers, and their supply chains.

Nearly 90% of our on-road transportation is powered by oil, a globally traded commodity that is subject to geopolitical events beyond our control. Current events in the Middle East are only the latest example of a broader, ongoing pattern of oil supply shocks that expose our vulnerabilities.

We have long seen EVs, and specifically the domestic EV industry, as the most promising solution to address the enormous challenge that oil dependence poses to our nation, by breaking oil's near monopoly on our transportation system. As the world is inevitably shifting from gasoline to EVs, China's dominance of the EV supply chain makes enabling and supporting the U.S. industry that much more urgent to ensure we do not trade a dependency on one commodity for another. S2778 works directly against the business models of the new American EV manufacturers we need to succeed.

Giving consumers the freedom to buy EVs is one of the most effective, market-driven policy levers to enhance EV deployment. S2778 would do the opposite. By prohibiting any EV-only manufacturer not licensed before January 1, 2020 from selling directly to consumers, this bill would effectively bar new American EV brands – which have built their entire sales model around direct-to-consumer purchasing and have no franchised dealer network to fall back on – from reaching Rhode Island consumers entirely. This punishes the very companies that invest in American jobs and domestic supply chains which are necessary for the U.S. to maintain global leadership in the automotive market.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote no on S2778.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration. Please reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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