

October 15, 2018

Public Utilities Commission
c/o of Ms. Judith Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05702
(Filed electronically on e-PUC)

RE: State of Vermont, Public Utility Commission Case No. 18-2660-INV

Dear Commissioners:

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Staff is providing these written comments following the October 1, 2018 Public Utility Commission (PUC) workshop on the investigation into promoting the ownership and use of electric vehicles (EV) in the State of Vermont. We appreciated the opportunity to attend the workshop and found the discussion to be inclusive of a broad variety of perspectives needed to address widespread electric vehicle adoption.

Based on our [2018 ECOS Plan](#), Chittenden County's Regional Plan, Enhanced Energy Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in one, our suggestions for promoting the ownership and use of electric vehicles are:

- Transforming the Transportation Sector: The *2018 ECOS Plan* calls for a reduction in fossil fuel consumption in the transportation sector, including a shift to electric vehicles in most of the vehicle fleet. Therefore, we suggest that the July 2019 report to the legislature call for **financial incentives for electric vehicles, associated charging infrastructure and the necessary regulatory changes to support a relatively rapid shift to electric vehicles (EVs)**.
- Educating the Public: The *2018 ECOS Plan* recognizes the need to increase awareness of the benefits of and access to EVs in collaboration with utilities, Drive Electric Vermont, Vermont Clean Cities Coalitions, and municipalities. The CCRPC has been involved with EV education and promotion to our municipalities since 2013. Of note, CCRPC worked with Drive Electric Vermont to develop a variety of resources including a study which identifies high priority locations for public charging. Highly desirable locations for EV charging include areas planned for growth and workplaces at major employment centers. CCRPC's EV resources can be read here: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/environment-natural-resources/energy/>. All regional planning commissions have strong relationships with municipalities focused on energy and transportation planning. **We encourage the PUC to prioritize the need for a significant public education and outreach effort facilitated by regional planning commissions, their towns, and other partners statewide to advance electric vehicle adoption.** Education is needed on a variety of topics including financing, state and local regulations, test driving, charging types and charging installation.

- Shifting to Renewable Electricity Generation to Support the Electrification of the Transportation Sector: The *2018 ECOS Plan* encourages increased renewable energy generation siting in Chittenden County to meet the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan's (CEP) goal of generating 90% of energy from renewable sources by 2050, as well as responding to the increased need for electricity in the future. This is especially needed to meet the demand for electricity in the transportation sector as we move to electric vehicles for transportation. **We would like to see all types of renewable energy generation remain feasible in the state, including making sure net metering remains appealing for consumers, certain technologies are not excluded, and all energy planning in the future is well-coordinated with utilities and VELCO to ensure a modern, functional and resilient grid.**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and we look forward to reviewing the 2019 report to the legislature. We understand that this investigation is ongoing, and we may submit further comments as the process continues.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Z. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' and 'B'.

Charles Baker
Executive Director