



Meira Leonard

I spoke at your Talk Story - Electric Charging Stations - Better Solutions

2 messages

Meira Leonard

Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 9:36 AM

To: edcase@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Case,

Thank you for letting me speak at your Talk Story on Wednesday regarding Electric Charging Stations. As I mentioned there are major issues with the current situation which will NOT get better simply by adding more charging stations. Below is a list of the issues, along with solutions. I still **urge you to please sit down and talk with us**, as it is very difficult to communicate the full extent of the problems & solutions without dialog and I hate to see government funding be wasted on yet another unhelpful solution.

THE PROBLEM

- **Charging Stations are expensive - AND will always be**
 - **We are paying MORE THAN GAS.** You mentioned during your talk that you were banking on competition between the charging companies to keep rates low. This will not happen for 4 reasons. 1) the demand is way too high and will continue to be high for a decade or more 2) convenience is too large of a factor. No one has 2 hours every week to waste on charging so we will always pay higher rates for more convenience. 3) Companies like Shell don't care if they sell electricity or gas, they win either way so there is no incentive on their end to make it convenient or cheap. 4) There is another factor which is 'parking' and often we have to pay just to enter the garages where these chargers are located.
- **Charging Stations are not convenient**
 - You need to experience this yourself to understand just how awful it is. It takes 1-2 hours to charge your car or it takes 8-16 hours depending on the station. If you can't schedule when & where you charge, then there is no way this works. Most stations only have 1 spot which means you are always waiting in line first. At the Tesla fast charging station, on average there are about 16 cars ahead of me.
- **Charging Stations diminish battery capacity**
 - We are warned by car companies that fast chargers actually diminish our batteries which means those who can charge at home slowly will have cars that last longer. This is a huge disadvantage and costly to those who are forced to charge at these stations and again gives the rich the advantage.
- **Charging Stations are extremely unreliable**
 - More than half of the time, these charging stations are not working. I drove around in the middle of the night to more than 4 different stations to find one that was operable. These companies are not being held accountable, they don't report outages, nor do they repair the stations quickly.
- **Charging Stations are discriminatory**
 - Each station requires a different app. I have 8 EV apps on my phone. I'm in IT and I can't figure out how to use some of them because they are NOT user-friendly which means an older person definitely can't. They also regularly malfunction.
- **Charging Stations hold your money BEFORE you charge**
 - Instead of paying as you go, often they make you add money to their app 'wallet' which means I have to have \$25 sitting in each account not doing anything.
- **Charging Stations are NOT good long-term solutions**
 - If electric cars surpass gas cars, you would need to multiply the current number of gas stations by a factor of at least 4 or more because of how long it takes to charge to meet the demand.

THE SOLUTION

The HUGE benefit of slow charging at home or work

Charging at home using a basic 120 outlet is ALL that is needed AND it is better for electric cars. Charging with a basic 120 outlet is very slow (3-6 miles per hour) BUT if I charge at night while I'm sleeping then every night I can have enough miles for an average commute. I'm also NOT competing with others or having to figure out how to watch when my car is finished to let others take my spot. This is why stations are a major inconvenience and not reasonable. Having each person have their own spot to charge is the **ONLY** real long-term solution.

- **Outlets at Home & Work**
 - We need condos & rentals, to provide their tenants with the ability to charge at home using normal 120 outlets for EVERY spot. This should be the FIRST priority.
- **Solar Car Ports**
 - Why isn't this our main focus? Solar reduces our dependence and doesn't tax the grid. Incentivize solar charging carports. Currently I can't find anyone on island to provide these services and I would gladly pay \$10,000 to have free gas for life.
- **Solar Car Covers**
 - We already have the technology for flexible solar panels. Incentivize companies to build solar panel car covers that plug directly into your car. You can charge at your home, at work, anywhere. This would solve everyone's problems and helps the poor as well as the rich!
- **One-System Charging Stations**
 - Require ONE system (app) for ALL charging stations which allows people to SCHEDULE a time for charging their cars. If you do not show up, you are still charged.
- **Hold Charging Stations Accountable**
 - Mandating that these charging stations must have people and parts available ON ISLAND to fix charging stations within a timely manner. Taking weeks/months to repair is not acceptable. They must monitor and report when things aren't working otherwise WE can charge them for our time & money to drive to their stations.
- **Consolidate Charging Stations**
 - Add 1 dozen or more FAST charging stations at **ONE location** like Costco or a Movie theatre where we typically have to stay for at least 1 hour. Adding just a few at one location means everyone is competing for it and you can't count on it and you end up driving around wasting electricity.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I understand it is complex but if we just keep wasting tax money on solutions (charging stations) that don't really help people, then nothing will change.

Thank you,
Meira Leonard

Please let me know if there is a good time I can talk with you to answer any further questions.

Meira Leonard
To: edcase@mail.house.gov

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 11:54 AM

Dear Representative Case,

I have not received any response to my email. I urge you to sit down with us and learn what is needed regarding charging stations from those who actually depend on them and not spend our tax dollars only to benefit the rich. We are waiting for your reply.

Thank you,
Meira Leonard



Meira Leonard

Electric Charging Stations on Oahu - More is Not a solution

1 message

Meira Leonard

Thu, Sep 1, 2022 at 7:52 PM

To: edcase@mail.house.gov

Dear Mr. Case,

I just attended your talk story this evening and have been trying to schedule a call or zoom meeting with you regarding electric charging stations. During the talk story, you responded to my online question by mentioning new federal funding. Below is an outline of my experience but again, I would appreciate just a few minutes of your time via zoom or a call to explain why adding stations will not solve the problem.

I am a local business owner and homeowner here in Oahu. For several years I saved up to purchase an electric car because I care about the environment and sustainability. A year ago I purchased a tesla and since then I had first-hand experience of how **1) inefficient 2) expensive and 3) discriminatory** owning an electric car is. I have spoken with numerous other electric car owners, all of whom express the same concerns and many of whom have chosen to sell their electric cars because it is just not functional AND it will only get worse. I'm not just here to complain, I'm also here to offer solutions & my help.

The current situation

Unless you 1) own an electric car and 2) don't currently have home charging, then it would be impossible for you to understand the current situation and just how bad it is or how to come up with a solution. You also would not realize that just adding more charging stations WILL NOT HELP. Let me explain... Let's say you own a gas car and let's pretend that there are only 1/4 of the number of gas stations currently on Oahu and each station only has 1 pump. Additionally, most pumps take about 8 hours to fill your tank, with only a few dozen which take just over an hour to fill your tank. Already you can see the issue. Now add in the fact that most of these stations are broken and the reporting of when they are broken or already occupied is hit or miss. This is the reality of owning an electric car currently. I have literally driven to 3 different charging stations late one night trying to find a station that wasn't broken and finally found one and still had to wait an hour for someone else to finish and then another hour to charge my car. This caused both major stress and fear in not even knowing if I could get home because I was losing charge just trying to find a usable station. I ended up getting home after 1am in the morning.

Issues

1. Two-thirds of the time charging stations are broken.
2. Most charging stations charge about 15 miles with 1 hour of charge. This is a bandaid on a huge gaping wound.
3. I currently have 8 different apps on my phone just for charging stations on Oahu. I'm literally in technology for my business and the phone applications required to operate these charging stations are 100% NOT user-friendly. If I can't figure them out, then how can we expect older people to. This is very discriminatory.
4. It is also very discriminatory that non-homeowners & condo owners are paying 57 cents /kWh while homeowners can charge at home at much lower rates.

Condos

I purchased a condo here in Oahu and before doing so I did extensive research on which condos have the ability for their residents to charge at home. The answer is none. Very few have slow charging stations which is completely useless. Even the new affordable condos (Ho'opili at Kaikoi & Malina at Koa Ridge) that are currently being built will only have 2 stations for hundreds of homeowners. If the average commute is 30miles/day then each person would need to charge at a charging station for **2 hours every day**. A condo of hundreds of people with only 2 charging stations will not suffice and I've already witnessed people getting into fights. You would need a dozen charging stations at least just at 1 location to meet the current need. AND we are paying premium electric pricing at these stations. My Tesla app lets me enter my current electric rate to show me how much I'm saving from gas. When I enter the rates from the charging stations it shows me that I'm **PAYING MORE THAN GAS**.

The HUGE benefit of charging at home

Charging at home using a basic 120 outlet is ALL that is needed AND it is better for electric cars. The fast charging stations are not as good for car batteries. Charging with a basic 120 outlet is very slow (3-6 miles per hour) BUT if I charge at night while I'm sleeping then every night I can have enough miles for an average commute. I'm also NOT competing with others or having to figure out how to watch when my car is finished to let others take my spot. This is why

stations are a major inconvenience and not reasonable. Having each person have their own spot to charge is the ONLY real long-term solution.

The Solution

1. First of all, we need condos & rentals, to provide their tenants with the ability to charge at home using normal 120 outlets for EVERY spot. This should be the FIRST priority.
2. Require ONE system (app) for ALL charging stations which allows people to SCHEDULE a time for charging their cars. If they do not show up, they are still charged.
3. Mandating that these charging stations must have people and parts available ON ISLAND to fix charging stations within a timely manner. Taking weeks to repair is not acceptable.
4. Add 1 dozen FAST charging stations (CHAdeMO - 1 hour to charge) at ONE location like Costco. Adding just a few means everyone is competing for it and causes MORE problems not less.
5. Incentivize solar charging carports (currently I can't find anyone on island to provide these services)

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I understand it is complex but if we just keep wasting tax money on solutions (charging stations) that don't really help people, then nothing will change.

Thank you,
Meira Leonard

Please let me know if there is a good time I can talk with you to answer any further questions.