



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

October 12, 2010

The Honorable Mary Margaret Haugen
Chair, Transportation Committee
Washington State Senate
305 John A. Cherberg Building
Post Office Box 40410
Olympia, Washington 98504-0410

The Honorable Dan Swecker
Ranking Minority Member, Transportation Committee
Washington State Senate
103 Irv Newhouse Building
Post Office Box 40420
Olympia, Washington 98504-0420

**Re: UTC Meeting on Regulatory Issues Relating to Electric Vehicles
Docket UE-101521**

Dear Chairwoman Haugen and Senator Swecker:

With December's release of Nissan's 100% electric vehicle, the Leaf, and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations along the I-5 corridor funded with \$1.32 million in federal stimulus funds, it is important that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) examine the economic regulation of the sale of electricity for use by electric vehicles.

The Commission will conduct a work session to consider its role in the development of electric vehicle infrastructure and other regulatory issues relating to electric vehicles in Washington. The Commission will hold this session on Thursday October 28, 2010, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Commission headquarters in its main hearing room.

The Commission will hear from several presenters, including:

- Jeff Doyle of the Department of Transportation, who will describe the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the State of Washington and state efforts to facilitate that development;

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- Charles Black of Charles J. Black Energy Economics, who will discuss time-of-use rates for electric vehicles.
- Members of the Commission staff will present a brief overview of some regulatory issues relating to development of public charging stations and at-home charging for electric vehicles such as the economic regulation of the resale of electricity at public charging stations; the extent to which existing laws will protect consumers who purchase electricity for recharging of vehicles from unfair or deceptive practices; and what ratemaking considerations for investor-owned utilities the Commission should address.

Following the introductory presentations, the Commission will hear from representatives of Puget Sound Energy, Avista Utilities and PacifiCorp, as well as other interested persons, such as a representative from ECOtality, a national electric vehicle service provider.

The Commission is looking forward to a robust discussion of the issues that affect the development of the infrastructure supporting electric vehicles, including any barriers or constraints to the full integration of electric vehicles into the electric grid, together with the development of public and at-home charging for electric vehicles. We hope to discern what, if any, action the Commission should take administratively and what, if any, recommendations the Commission should make to the Legislature.

We welcome the participation of members and staff of your committee. We intend to brief policy makers on these discussions before the 2011 legislative session.

Please call me at (360) 664-1173 if you have any questions. The staff lead on this effort will be Danny Kermode. He can be reached at (360) 664-1253 or dkermode@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ
Chairman

cc: Kelly Simpson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Transportation Committee
Teresa Berntsen, Executive Policy Advisor, Governor's Executive Policy Office