



February 12, 2020

Chairman Joe Fitzgibbon  
320 John L. O'Brien Building,  
P.O. Box 40600,  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Chairman Fitzgibbon,

Consumer Reports<sup>1</sup> urges you to support SB 5811, a bill allowing Washington state to consider joining the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program. This program would likely deliver consumer, environmental, and public health benefits for Washington state residents.

A Zero-Emission Vehicle program in Washington state would give consumers more choices by making electric vehicles easier to find and buy at local auto dealers. The program would make sure at least 5 percent of auto sales in the state are electric vehicles (EVs), which are cheaper to operate and emit less pollution than gasoline-powered vehicles.<sup>2</sup>

Consumers benefit from EVs having fewer and simpler components, resulting in lower maintenance costs.<sup>3</sup> They also never need an oil change and are more than one-third cheaper to fuel.<sup>4</sup> The ZEV program will make accessing those benefits much easier by bringing a greater variety of electric vehicles to Washington state, including new pickup trucks, SUVs and crossovers that will be released in the coming years.

In addition to consumer benefits, EVs provide environmental and public health benefits. According to the Washington Department of Ecology, vehicle emissions are the state's largest contributor to greenhouse gases that lead to climate change.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, EVs are 90

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<sup>1</sup> Consumer Reports is an independent, nonprofit membership organization that works side by side with consumers to create a fairer, safer, and healthier world. For 80 years, CR has provided evidence-based product testing and ratings, rigorous research, hard-hitting investigative journalism, public education, and steadfast policy action on behalf of consumers' interests. CR has exposed landmark public health and safety issues and strives to be a catalyst for pro-consumer changes in the marketplace. From championing responsible auto safety standards, to winning food and water protections, to enhancing healthcare quality, to fighting back against predatory lenders in the financial markets, Consumer Reports has always been on the front lines, raising the voices of consumers.

<sup>2</sup> Consumer Reports, *How Clean Are Vehicles in Your State*, [9/12/19](#)

<sup>3</sup> Kate Palmer et al., *Total Cost of Ownership and Market Share for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in the UK, US and Japan*, January 1, 2018, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030626191731526X?via%3Dihub>

<sup>4</sup> US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Saving on Fuel and Vehicle Costs, accessed [2/12/20](#)

<sup>5</sup> Washington Department of Ecology, accessed [11/16/19](#)

percent cleaner than gas powered vehicles in Washington State.<sup>6</sup> More EVs on the road would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>7</sup> And more EVs would also reduce other forms of pollution caused by vehicle emissions that cause respiratory disease.<sup>8</sup>

Currently, statute prohibits the state from adopting the ZEV standard. Supporting this bill would allow the state to explore the benefits of a ZEV program.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program that benefits consumers, the environment, and public health.

Warm Regards,



Alfred J. Artis, Policy Analyst, Consumer Reports

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<sup>6</sup> Consumer Reports, *How Clean Are Vehicles in Your State*, [9/12/19](#)

<sup>7</sup> US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center, Emissions from Hybrid and Plug-In Electric Vehicles, accessed 1/17/19, [https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric\\_emissions.html](https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric_emissions.html)

<sup>8</sup> Marlene Cimons, Nexus Media, Cleantechnica, Car Exhaust is a Key Contributor to Asthma in Children, April 28, 2019, <https://cleantechica.com/2019/04/28/car-exhaust-is-a-key-contributor-to-asthma-in-children>