

## Mooney's Anti-EV Letter Regurgitates Same Old Tired Lies

Representative Alex Mooney (R-WV) is circulating a “Dear Colleague” letter to Congressional members and staff in an effort to raise opposition to the Driving America Forward Act. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation--which enjoys broad support from environmentalists, industry and public health advocates--extends the federal electric vehicle tax credit, a key policy in accelerating the deployment of zero-emission vehicles that reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and supports nearly a quarter of a million American jobs.

Mr. Mooney's letter includes a number of outdated and misleading talking points that have been repeated by anti-EV actors time and time again.

As Elliot Negin of the Union of Concerned Scientists recently wrote, the “oil and gas industry's anti-EV tax credit campaign is a prime example of how fossil fuel interests construct a disinformation echo chamber to drown out government efforts to address the climate crisis.”

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**CLAIM:** 67 percent of Americans do not support subsidizing electric vehicle purchases.

**FACT: Americans overwhelmingly support the adoption of electric vehicles.**

A recent Climate Nexus poll finds that 77 percent of American voters have a positive opinion of electric cars and a \$7,500 tax incentive would make it more likely for nearly three-quarters of American voters overall (and 71 percent of Republican voters) to purchase an EV. Another poll found a significant majority of American voters believe the current credit should be maintained or expanded

The survey Mooney cites was commissioned by a self-described “advocacy” organization led by a former Koch Industries lobbyist. MWR Strategies, a for-profit lobbying firm with clients including Koch Industries and the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, conducted the “highly biased poll,” asked leading questions of prospective voters in just nine states that were cherry-picked by the lobbying firm.

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**CLAIM:** 79 percent of electric vehicle tax credits were claimed by households with an annual adjusted gross income of more than \$100,000.

**FACT: Every American benefits from the integration of electric vehicles, and the data cited is from over five years ago, an eternity in terms of the EV revolution.**

The cited “study,” by Wayne Winegarden of the Pacific Research Institute (PRI), relies on outdated data from 2014, when the EV market was still in its infancy and many of the mid-range models that are available today had not yet been introduced. The cherry-picked data ignored leased vehicles, which make up more than half of the electric car market. The

EV tax credit can reduce lease payments by up to \$200 per month, effectively making electric cars affordable for many more drivers.

The Pacific Research Institute has received over \$1.7 million in donations from Koch-related foundations

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**CLAIM:** Electric vehicles hurt the environment more than efficient internal combustion engines.

**FACT: Electric vehicles deliver at least a 40 percent greenhouse gas reduction relative to ICE vehicles, and actually get cleaner over time unlike their gasoline counterparts thanks to increased decarbonization of the power sector.**

The Manhattan Institute receives extensive funding from the oil and gas industry, including ExxonMobil and Koch family foundations, and has a history of arguing aggressively for the preservation of oil and gas industry tax breaks.

When taking well-to-wheel emissions into account, all-electric vehicles emit an average of around 4,450 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent each year. By comparison, conventional gasoline cars will emit over twice as much annually on average.

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