Documentation for “Stop Paying, Start Charging” Ad

“They’re trying to kill progress on electric vehicles.”

S&P Global notes that “the American Jobs Plan, it will also need to overcome opposition from the US oil and gas sector, which stands to lose under the plan's heavy emphasis on electric vehicles and charging infrastructure” because it “would hand EV makers and electricity providers a win at the expense of a US oil and gas industry.”

Seth Schwartz, president of Energy Ventures Analysis, concluded "the big winner would be electric vehicles, and the big loser would be oil consumption for transportation purposes.”

Politico reports that “the oil industry is trying to crush the booming electric car movement. Groups backed by industry giants like ExxonMobil and the Koch empire are waging a state-by-state, multimillion-dollar battle to squelch utilities’ plans to build charging stations across the country. Environmentalists call the fight a reprise of the “Who Killed the Electric Car?” battles that doomed an earlier generation of battery-driven vehicles in the 1990s.”

The American Petroleum Institute and their allies have been seeking to undermine electric vehicles, which would take away profits from their members that produce gasoline. API President and CEO Mike Sommers has used scare tactics like “Electric-vehicle (EV) technologies may appear to offer clear-cut solutions to modern challenges, but government action to limit Americans’ transportation choice could leave everyday drivers high and dry.”

The trade outlet InsideEVs reports: the “American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, a gasoline trade group, has filed public comments against charging projects in Kansas and Missouri, and has opposed Colorado's new zero-emission vehicle mandate. In Illinois and Iowa, the American Petroleum Institute (API) teamed up with the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity (AFP) to oppose utilities' EV infrastructure investments. API has also joined forces with local gasoline-selling interests to try to block charging projects in Massachusetts and Maryland. The Western States Petroleum Association has opposed utility charging plans in Arizona and California.”

The Atlantic reported last year that The Oil Industry Is Fighting Climate Policy in the States. They quote Josh Freed, the senior vice president of energy policy at Third Way saying the oil industry's activities “are having a tangible impact in preventing zero-carbon electricity and zero-carbon electric vehicles from getting adopted.” The
Atlantic also reminds readers that “every electric vehicle on the road cuts into oil’s share of the transportation sector,” reporting that, “in the past several years, the oil industry has also worked with groups funded by the Koch Foundation to engineer a nationwide decline in financial support for electric-vehicle sales. Today, only 15 states offer subsidies or support for electric-car buyers, down from an all-time high of about two dozen states in 2015.”

This fight is far from new. In 2017, the New York times reported on “the Quiet State-by-State Fight Over Electric Vehicles.” As an example, the Times discusses a “bill in Colorado, which would end income tax credits of up to $5,000 for buyers of electric cars and as much as $20,000 for commercial trucks...The bill, which shifts the money for the tax credits toward fixing Colorado’s infrastructure, is supported by the Kochs’ Americans for Prosperity, as well as the Independence Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Denver that has been financed by coal, oil and gas companies....” The motivation is clear; the Times points to studies that show “electric vehicles alone could reduce oil demand by two million barrels a day by 2025, the study forecasts. That would be about the same dip that caused the oil price collapse in 2014 and 2015.”

Additional recent efforts by industry-connected actors to undermine clean transportation progress:

Forbes: Biden’s High-Cost Plan To Accelerate U.S. Adoption Of Electric Vehicles. The author works for DB Global Energy which is an oil and gas upstream advisory firm.

Wall Street Journal letter: Charging Stations for All Those New Electric Vehicles. The author is with the Caesar Rodney Institute, which receives funds from the Koch-funded Donors Capital Fund and is part of the State Policy Network they also fund.

Duluth News Tribune: Walz can pump the brakes, too, on electric vehicles. The author is with the ‘Center of the American Experiment’ also part of the State Policy Network

Geopolitical Intelligence Services op-ed: Opinion: The wrong turn on electric vehicle. The author works at the Heritage Foundation, which has received oil industry funding.
“Sacrificing clean air”

Science Daily reports that widespread electric vehicle adoption would save billions of dollars, thousands of lives. Study finds improved air quality would avoid health and climate damages.

The American Lung Association has the facts on clean air and electric vehicles in its Road to Clean Air - Electric Vehicle report.

“And losing hundreds of thousands of American jobs to Europe and China”

A report from the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Job Creation Estimates Through Proposed Economic Stimulus Measures, estimates that over a hundred thousand jobs could be created in the United States if the electric vehicle industry grows.