



June 24, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

I am writing in strong support of efforts to advance the wide-scale deployment of electric vehicles and to develop the infrastructure needed to support them. City leaders inside and outside of government understand that electric vehicles offer a cleaner, cheaper alternative to oil. Indianapolis is ready to take the next step in becoming a more energy efficient community, creating technology investments and new jobs in the process.

As you know, on May 27, Sens. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced S. 3442, The Electric Vehicle Deployment Act, legislation under which geographic areas would compete to be selected as electrification “deployment communities:” specific geographic areas in which targeted, temporary financial incentives are employed in support of electric vehicles and infrastructure. Reps. Ed Markey (D-MA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Jerry McNerney (D-CA) introduced a companion bill in the House.

I believe that this approach—incentives to deploy all of the elements of an electrified transportation system simultaneously in select geographic areas—represents a path forward that is fiscally responsible while still minimizing the risk of electric cars being relegated to a niche market for enthusiasts. Mayors and other local leaders across the country already understand the benefits of electrification, both to their communities and to the nation as a whole. Indianapolis will compete to be selected as one of the first deployment communities should this legislation become law.

The crisis in the Gulf represents yet another signal of the danger of our dependence on oil. The solution can be found in our nation’s cities. We fully intend to take every advantage of America’s newest, most cutting edge technologies, and we believe that electrification represents a crucial step

forward in building a more energy efficient future. We stand ready to help America take the next step, and intend to be first in line when Congress passes this enormously beneficial legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory A. Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory A. Ballard  
Mayor  
City of Indianapolis

cc: The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
The Honorable Max Baucus  
The Honorable Charles Grassley