March 1, 2021

Dear Tennessee Valley Authority and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation,

The undersigned health and medical organizations in Tennessee are pleased to see the Tennessee Valley Authority and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's investment and goal to develop a statewide system of public electric vehicle charging stations throughout Tennessee. Transitioning to zero-emission vehicles will result in reduced air pollution emissions, which will benefit public health and demonstrate critical leadership for other states.

Electric vehicles are not just good for the environment and economy, but they are vital for our health. Transportation is a leading contributor of bad air quality in Tennessee. Pollution harms health in several ways, such as triggering asthma attacks, heart attacks, coughing, wheezing and lung cancer. Children, older adults, people with lung disease, cardiovascular disease and diabetes are particularly vulnerable. In Tennessee, there are more than 146,000 children and 516,000 adults with asthma who could be more likely to have an asthma attack on days with high levels of pollution. Air pollution also contributes to cardiovascular harm and increases the risk of premature death. Considering that over 644,000 Tennesseans have cardiovascular diseases, clean air will protect their health and their lives.

A recent report by the American Lung Association found that a transition to electric cars, trucks and buses by 2050 has many health benefits. This includes preventing 6,300 premature deaths, 93,000 asthma attacks, and 416,000 lost workdays due to illness. Tennesseans would experience $1.2 billion in avoided health costs.

Transitioning to electric vehicles benefits everyone's health, especially children riding school buses, commuters, truck drivers, delivery drivers and people living nears roads and warehouses.

Tennessee is a leader in the manufacturing of electric vehicles, and the undersigned health and medical organizations encourage Tennessee to continue prioritizing the transition to electric transportation, invest in the necessary infrastructure, and support incentives for consumers and businesses to make it easy to choose emission-free vehicles.

Transforming Tennessee's transportation system will clean our air, save lives, and avoid billions of dollars in health costs. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee
Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians
Tennessee Asthma Coalition
Tennessee Public Health Association