



## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Electric Vehicle Product Commission  
Conference Rooms 1&2  
Indiana Government Center South Conference Center  
302 W Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Friday, April 8, 2022

1. Pursuant to IC 9-13-3, the Electric Vehicle Product Commission (the Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairman Ben Wrightsman at 9:35 a.m. EST on Friday, April 8, 2022. The meeting was conducted in person and virtually.

- a. Commission members physically present at the meeting:

Ben	Wrightsmen	Battery Innovation Center
Danny	Ernstes	UAW
Rep. Mike	Karickhoff	State Representative
Sen. J.D.	Ford	State Senator
Sen. Jim	Buck	State Senator

- b. Commission member virtually present at the meeting

David	Dukes	Stellantis
Muichael	Maten	General Motors
Paul	Mitchell	Energy Systems Network
Craig	Kelle	Toyota

- c. Commission members absent from the meeting:

Rep. Carey	Hamilton	State Representative
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- d. The following staff were physically present during the meeting:

Dave Roberts, Chief Innovation Officer  
Emily Criss Totten, Director, Policy & Government Affairs  
Eli Eckhart, Government Affairs Coordinator

- e. Ben Wrightsman:

I want to remind everyone that our report is due in September. We have made some good progress so far; however, we still have some work.



f. The Commission approved the previous meeting minutes.

2. Commission Purpose's update:

*Purpose 1 – IEDC*

Dave Roberts updated the group on the IEDC's section of the report. He stated that the IEDC is still reviewing internal data but is working with the Center for Automotive research to collect additional data. Later, he noted that there are seven Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) in the state and several suppliers focused on transitioning to clean energy. Further, Dave states that the IEDC should have more information to report at the next meeting.

Sen. Buck – I read that 80% of energy cells are made in China. Is there any effort to bring those numbers down?

Dave Roberts – The US is looking at our national interests, meaning we are looking to bring production to our country.

Michael Maten – So far, about a dozen cell factories in the US have been announced with the goal to be operational in several years.

Sen. Buck – Is the IEDC looking to bring OEMs and battery production to the state?

Dave Roberts – We are. Indiana has a legacy manufacturing industry, and we have been early to electrification.

Paul Mitchell – The majority of companies in battery production are scaling companies that may have gigawatt production needs that cannot always be met. Should our report include tools that other state has implemented to meet these companies' needs?

Sen. Buck – As legislators, we want to make sure we are helping to grow this industry in Indiana, we want to be prepared, but we need guidance to understand what will allow Indiana to be at the forefront.

Dave Roberts – We will work with the General Assembly on future legislation.

*Purposes 2,3,4 & 7 – Danny Ernestes*



Danny's update begins by noting that as the EV Product Industry continues to express a shared concern shared, "what impact will this have upon employers and their workers, and how will this be addressed?" To answer this question, Danny proposes a research partnership between Purdue University, Ivy Tech, and the UAW that will offer non-partisan research specific to Indiana. The project would cover Commission purposes 2,3 and 4. Danny's slide deck can be found here.

Rep. Karickhoff – Before we commit to a project, would the Commission have an opportunity to review the setup and add input?

Danny Ernestes – There are still a few key details I am trying to figure out, but we welcome input and collaboration.

Sen. Ford – The Commission should be cognizant of additional questions and overlap in information to help guide the research.

Ben Wrightsman – As a Commission, should we comment on the project before Danny gets a formal proposal?

Rep. Karickhoff & Craig Kelle believe the commission should comment before any research begins.

Ben Wrightsman – All members will have two weeks to comment on what they want to see in the research proposal. Sen. Ford and Craig Kelle will help Danny with the report.

#### *Purpose 5*

David Dukes' presentation identified existing manufacturing competencies within Indiana's legacy automotive manufacturers. To help compile the necessary information, Dukes suggests working with other manufacturers in Indiana. He later mentions that by involving companies such as General Motors, Toyota, and others, the committee will have more precise data, and all stakeholders will be on the same page.

Ben Wrightsman – Ben reminds the committee that there needs to be a clear framework. He suggests GM, Toyota, and Stellantis develop a framework for this part of the report.

#### *Purpose 6*

Ben Wrightsman – To help identify and evaluate opportunities for growth within the EV product industry, Ben collected and combined data from several stakeholders. He believes the data will help the report stay organized and add depth. In partnership



with the IEDC, Ben wants to create a database about these categories.

Paul Mitchell mentions a steady but evolving industry around electrification, noting aerospace and other R&D efforts. This is all to say battery manufacturers are interested in the overall battery market, not just vehicles. He suggests looking at companies in each growth sector to show how Indiana is fostering growth in all aspects of electrification.

Ben Wrightsman follows Paul up by saying that the Department of Defense (DOD) still relies on many foreign producers but is looking to shift to American manufacturers.

### *Purpose 8*

Ben Wrightsman updates the committee on identifying opportunities for research and development within the EV product industry. He begins by conveying the importance of materials for R&D by drawing a comparison to the current chip shortage. Another aspect of R&D he brings up is the opportunities to repurpose EV equipment after its useful life.

Sen. Buck begins by commenting on R&D efforts at Purdue University. He asks if the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) needs to repair roads or innovate to include new technologies, noting that the General Assembly will have to set aside money if technology is required.

Ben Wrightsman notes that INDOT is performing a study on EVs and their effects on transportation.

Dave Roberts adds that this might be an opportunity for the commission to meet with INDOT and Purdue.

### 3. Legislative Update:

Representative Karickhoff informs the commission that there is no new information.

### 4. New Business:

Sen. Ford – The Senator notes that the commission has received some good press lately, adding that these stories capture the commission’s capabilities.

Ben asks commission members to consult with the whole group before any public comments are made about the commission’s stance on a subject.



5. Public Comment:

Adam Berry – Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Adam offers the chamber as a resource for the commission. He believes that the chamber can act as a liaison between the commission and relevant business.

Ben Wrightsman thanks Adam for his offer. He adds that he sees many opportunities for the chamber's help and support.

Chris Prauda – Applied Engineering Services

Chris shared an article with the commission. The article was about a charging Infrastructure being piloted in Michigan.

6. Closing Remarks:

Ben Wrightsman thanks the audience and commission members for their time and efforts to grow the EV industry in Indiana.

7. Scheduling of Future Meetings:

Ben Wrightsman says that he would like the next meeting to be hosted by a commission members' company.

Rep. Karickhoff suggests Kokomo, adding he will work with David Dukes to figure out the location.

The commission tentatively decided to meet on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Kokomo next.

8. Adjournment:

Chairman Wrightsman adjourned the meeting.