

June 1, 2023

Governor Joe Lombardo
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

CC: Office of the Governor

RE: Statement in support of AB 184, AB 262 from General Charles F. “Chuck” Wald (ret.)

Dear Governor Lombardo,

My name Chuck Wald, former Air Force General and Deputy Commander Headquarters U.S. European Command, and member of the Energy Security Leadership Council, and I am asking you to sign AB 184 and AB 262.

[SAFE](#), and its [Energy Security Leadership Council](#) were created to end dependence on oil in order to strengthen the economic and national security of the U.S. We have seen the astonishing costs of our oil dependence in the loss of America’s blood and treasure overseas, and recognize the urgent need to reduce our need for oil and build the transportation system of the future here in the U.S. SAFE works alongside its sister organization, the [Electrification Coalition](#), to help states including Nevada support this transition.

The U.S. transportation sector’s overwhelming dependence on oil – a volatile global commodity influenced and manipulated by unreliable actors – is a direct threat to the interests of the United States and our allies. While oil has facilitated the rise of the modern era, our overreliance on it has created tremendous energy security vulnerabilities because the price of this critical commodity is subject to manipulations by OPEC+ and global events that are beyond our ability to control. Such vulnerabilities constrain U.S. foreign policymaking, affect the flexibility and activities of the military, impact consumers at the pump, and threaten economic growth. The U.S. military also continues to be the guarantor of safe global oil transit and supply, to the cost of \$81 billion annually to the taxpayer.

SAFE and the Electrification Coalition have long seen electric vehicles (EVs), and specifically the domestic electric vehicle industry, as the most promising solution to break oil’s monopoly over the transportation system. And as the world shifts from gasoline to EVs, China’s dominance of the entire EV supply chain makes scaling up the U.S. market even more urgent.

The state of Nevada is in a unique position to lead the nation in the development of a secure and domestic minerals-to-markets electric vehicle supply chain and lead the electric transportation revolution. Signing AB 184 and AB 262 are important components for Nevada to lead in reducing our dependence on oil and securing our nation’s global economic competitiveness.

AB 184 will help to accelerate the adoption of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in Nevada by lowering the upfront investment for Nevada's early adopting businesses to access the benefits of electrification, while AB 262 will enable the state to lead by doing, requiring the state to consider the total cost of ownership of vehicles when procuring the state's fleet which, according to the [Electrification Coalition's recent analysis of Nevada's fleet](#), 92 percent of vehicles analyzed could be electrified and would realize savings for Nevada's taxpayers even without the need for grants or rebates.

The future of our nation depends on our ability to control our destiny with regards to our transportation fuels and technologies. Now is the time to ensure Nevadans are given every opportunity to reduce their exposure and reliance on volatile oil, while seizing their place as the lithium capital of the nation.

Respectfully yours,

General Charles F. Wald (ret.)
Former Deputy Commander, Headquarters U.S. European Command

For more information or with any questions, please contact Will Drier, Policy Manager at the Electrification Coalition, at wdrier@electrificationcoalition.org.