

I am writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility. It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont, but they cannot open a service facility!

I should be able to have my car serviced in Vermont. I want to keep my dollars in Vermont, not spend it in NH, MA or NY. A Tesla facility would both attract people to Vermont and grow jobs here.

Electric vehicles are one of the main ways we can fight climate change. If you are serious about fighting climate change, please vote for S.47.

This legislation has already been delayed for a few years by the protectionist lobbying of the car companies. Please, act on the bill this year.

*Thank you,
Betsey Dempsey
Shelburne, VT*

Dear House Transportation Committee Members,

As director of the **Vermont Tesla Owners Group**, I represent the interests of nearly eight-hundred Tesla vehicle owners in Vermont. Our members enthusiastically drive Tesla electric vehicles every day in an effort to help Vermont reach its carbon emission goals.

I am writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct-to-consumer electric vehicle companies to open instate service facilities. It makes no sense that Vermonters can buy Teslas, but they cannot get them serviced in Vermont. Instead, they must take their vehicles to facilities in Peabody MA and Latham NY.

Vermont's Tesla owners should be able to get their cars serviced in Vermont. A Tesla facility would generate tax revenue for Vermont and create new jobs here.

Tesla's direct-to-consumer business model is the result of thirteen years of experience selling and servicing electric vehicles. Tesla experimented with franchise dealerships and recognized a fundamental problem: traditional car dealerships derive most of their revenue from their service departments. Electric vehicles require so little routine service, you can't support a traditional car dealership with them. A different business model is required.

This legislation has already been delayed by the protectionist lobbying of the big car companies. Please act on the bill this year.

Best regards,
Todd

Todd R. Lockwood, Director
Vermont Tesla Owners Group
73 Tabor Place

South Burlington, VT 05403
802-658-1270 home/studio
802-343-1731 mobile

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Thanks for your consideration,

John DeWitt, Essex VT

Good morning House Transportation Committee,

My name is Micahel Frank and I'm writing in support of bill S.47. I have a 2018 Tesla Model 3 and for some of my service I have had to go to Montreal or Massachusetts since Tesla is not able to have a service center in Vermont. I think it is really important that we be able to have a service center in Vermont. This is also more than just for Tesla. Other manufactures, like Rivian, are coming out with electric vehicles that will help keep Vermont green. It is important that we support the electrification of our auto industry. The traditional manufactures have fought this for a long time and I think it is time that it changes.

Thank you for the support for this bill. It is time to put consumers first and not continue to protect the interests of the traditional car manufacturers and car dealerships.

I am happy to share my personal experiences if you want any more information.

Full disclosure I work for Green Mountain Power but this email is on my own, and in no way connected to GMP.

Thank you for your service to this state,

Michael Frank
Waterbury Center, VT

I am writing to urge the House Transportation Committee to support S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility. It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont, but they cannot open a service facility!

Here at West Hill House B&B we are a leader in addressing environmental responsibility. We were one of the first B&B's in the State to provide destination charging for EVs for our guests (Tesla and others) to encourage them to travel using their EV. The B&B is almost totally solar powered, which means that our guests' EVs are charged with solar power. Our main B&B company car is a Tesla Model 3.

We are also designated as a "Green Hotel in the Green Mountain State" to recognize our contribution to Vermont's environment. All of these initiatives have given us the opportunity to talk to our out-of-state guests about our own, and Vermont's, commitment to leadership in sustainability and the environment.

Yet, ironically, the State of Vermont is not yet providing full support for one of the largest selling EVs in the state, the various Tesla models. I say ironically as it seems inconceivable that the state that is promoting itself as being a leader in environmental awareness is behind many other states when it comes to recognizing the need to update out-of-date laws to assist in the transition to sustainable transportation.

Also, ironically, Governor Scott is advocating a massive program to support the use of EVs with deployment of more fast chargers in the state, yet current legislation means I can't get my EV serviced here!

I should be able to have my car serviced in Vermont. Today I have to travel out of state for any warranty or other service. I want to keep my dollars in Vermont, not spend it in NH, MA or NY, and not to have to spend a whole day driving for a one-hour service appointment. A Tesla facility in Vermont would grow jobs here and further encourage Vermont residents to consider driving an EV.

Electric vehicles are one of the main ways we can fight climate change. If you are serious about fighting climate change, please support S.47.

This legislation has already been delayed for a few years by the protectionist lobbying of the legacy car companies. Please, act on the bill this year.

Regards, Peter MacLaren
Co-owner, West Hill House B&B
1496 West Hill Road, Warren, Vermont 05674
+1 (802) 496-7162

To those on the House Transportation Committee,

Our family would appreciate your support on bill S.47. Electric cars are one of the answers in solving the climate change issue, and this decision has impacts beyond our lives into the next generation. This bill removes a barrier that will allow companies like Rivian, Lucid Air, and Tesla to have a store and more importantly service center in the state of Vermont.

It doesn't make sense for Vermont residents to have to go to MA, NY, or Canada to get their car serviced. We want to encourage easy ownership for residents of Vermont. Please support this bill so that Vermont can be part of the EV wave that will continue with Biden's American Job's Plan.

Thanks,
Erik and Meredith Breiland

Erik Breiland <erik.breiland@gmail.com>

Dear Transportation Committee,

I have lived in VT since the 70s. I learned to drive in VT. I have purchased a number of cars in VT. I have driven an electric car since 2013. There is no single good or valid reason that Vermont should restrict access to sales and service for the best forward looking vehicles and travel infrastructure. We need S 47 YESTERDAY.

I am writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility. It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont, but they cannot open a service facility!

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*Sincerely,
William Bresee
Jericho*

I am writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility. It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont, but they cannot open a service facility!

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This legislation has already been delayed for a few years by the protectionist lobbying of the car companies. Please, act on the bill this year.

Chris
Chris Frank <chris.e.frank@gmail.com>

Dear Committee Members -

I urge that you support S.47 which will allow electric vehicle companies to open service facilities in Vermont. As the owner of an EV (Tesla) that had to be ordered, sight unseen, from Massachusetts, and to have to travel out of state (or to Canada) if my vehicle ever needs repair, makes no sense. Vermont dollars are going out of state for purchase as well as service. Does you want to continue to see our state's economy have LESS money going into it by not allowing EV service centers?

We are trying to help the environment by not adding fossil fuel exhaust by mainly driving an EV. Our house, therefore our car which is charged at home, run on solar.

It is in the best interest of Vermont to (a) keep more dollars in state
(b) do whatever we can to promote EV sales and use for environmental reasons. Continuing to bow to the ICE vehicle dealerships and repair shops at the expense of EVs makes no sense at all.

Thank you for supporting this bill. Lynn Cummings, South Burlington

Lynn Cummings <Lynn.Cummings@uvm.edu>

I am writing to urge you to support S.47, the bill to allow direct-to-consumer companies to open a service facility in Vermont.

As a Vermonter with a commitment to fighting climate change, I take great pride in the efforts that Vermont has taken to support our move to green energy. With Green Mountain Power's encouragement to go solar (we added a Solar Tracker in 2014), and for us to function as a "mini-utility" (we added battery backups in 2017), you can imagine my surprise, when considering an electric vehicle, that the leader in EV cannot operate a service center in Vermont! Tesla and other EV manufacturers can sell cars in Vermont (of which there are over 800 Teslas in the state) but can't service them here? I would have to drive to MA or NY for any service? I want to keep my money in Vermont and grow jobs of the future here.

What are the legacy car companies afraid of? Most of them have committed to EVs in their future, so why would a competitor's service center be opposed? Spite? Protectionism? Tesla proved that market demand for EVs is strong and would only be stronger if there were more convenient ways to purchase and service an EV here in Vermont, rather than spending our money out of state.

EVs will become one of the easiest ways individuals have to fight climate change. All EVs should be supported and all EV competition encouraged. If you are serious about fighting climate change, **PLEASE support S.47.**

M Teena Flood
270 Soaring Hawk Lane
Charlotte, VT 05445
teena.flood@gmail.com

I am writing to urge the support of the House Transportation Committee for S. 47, the bill to allow direct-to-consumer Electric Vehicle (EV) companies to open in-state service facilities for their customers. I do not understand why companies such as Tesla or Rivian are allowed to sell cars in Vermont but are not allowed to service them. I chose to purchase an EV in order to further our goal of mitigating the effects of climate change. My understanding is this is a Vermont goal as well. I paid sales tax to Vermont and would not expect the state to prevent me from being able to obtain service in Vermont. Does the state prefer I spend service dollars in MA, NH, or NY? If so, why?

Furthermore, I understand Vermont wishes to actually encourage the adoption of EVs. In order to accomplish this goal it makes no sense to prevent the ability of Vermonter's to service their vehicles. Service facilities for all EV manufacturer's (Tesla, Rivian, etc.) would attract people to Vermont and further job growth.

If Vermont is serious about combating climate change then the least we can do is not inhibit Vermonter's from purchasing the vehicles which can have the greatest impact on this goal. Opposition to this bill is short-sighted and stands in the way of Vermont pursuing the important goal of combating climate change.

I urge the Committee to please support and act on S.47 for the benefit of all Vermonters.

Sincerely, Greg Glade
greg@topworldbooks.com

I'm writing to encourage the House Transportation Committee to consider and adopt Senate bill 47. I support this bill because it makes it much easier for Vermonters to consider owning an electric car. The current situation, barring a service facility by a manufacturer that doesn't have a dealership, is a deterrent. If Vermont is serious about getting people into EVs, this is a great barrier to knock down. And it won't cost the State anything.

Thank you for providing this to the Committee.

Sincerely,
J. L. Scharf
Middlesex, VT
Lauri Scharf <lauri.scharf@gmail.com>

I write to support the passage of S. 47 which will, among other things, allow Tesla and other vehicle manufacturers to sell and (more importantly to me) service such vehicles in Vermont. I have driven a Tesla since 2015, now my second one. Although Tesla does provide some mobile service to owners of its vehicles in Vermont, many necessary repairs, even some that might be considered minor in nature, require that the car be brought to a service center. At this time, the Tesla service centers that are designated to assist owners here are in or near Boston (some 3+ hours away), Latham, N.Y. (some 2.5+ hours away) or in Montreal, a few hours north, but presently unavailable given the Covid-19 closure of the border between the U.S. and Canada.

This late fall I had a minor-seeming problem with the heat in my fairly new '20 Model S Tesla. I was going to have to drive it to Latham and, indeed, probably leave it there for a day or so; drive back with a rental, and then return to retrieve it. Fortunately, I figured out a method to get the heat operating again and was able to avoid the serious inconvenience of those trips.

I've been fortunate that in all the years I've owned these vehicles the only other instance in which a repair at a service center was required was one where Tesla had to change the charging port, for which I had to bring the car to Boston.

I am committed to driving this and/or similar cars that will come on the market in the near future due to their lack of tailpipe emissions. The fight to save our climate will depend in large measure on eliminating those emissions by doing all we can to make EV's the dominant vehicles on our highways. It doesn't make much sense to me that companies like Tesla...and others coming forward with EV's like Rivian, may be allowed to sell cars here but cannot offer service at a Vermont-based facility.

Why should folks who drive combustion-engine cars have the ability to have their cars serviced close to home, whereas I cannot? This situation deprives Vermont of dollars spent here and jobs that would be created here with new facilities such as the one(s) Tesla wishes to operate.

I hope that the committee will favor the passage of S47, a bill that has been delayed for a few years in the face of opposition by the heritage car companies that does not make common sense. I would very much like to have it passed this year. Thank you.

Michael H. Lipson

Michael H. Lipson, Attorney *Pro Bono Emeritus*
125 Holmes Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
Tel. (802) 863-0296
Email: mlip2@yahoo.com

Please support S. 47 so that Tesla can open a Vermont based service facility. It's crazy that I have to drive 3 hours to an out of state service center if I want to get a repair done on my Model 3. In fact, I need a repair done, but we don't have the capacity to drive there, maybe have to stay overnight, and then drive back. So, I am holding off until who knows when.

The future for cars is electric--Vermont can put its money where its mouth is and support this bill. We have the Tesla super chargers, we have a roving Tesla repair man, and now we just need to facility where we can actually get work done on the cars! This is CRAZY that someone is trying to block this--it adds jobs to Vermont and it keeps my money in Vermont!

Please act on this bill NOW, thank you!
Liz

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Liz Scharf
liz.scharf@gmail.com

I am writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility. It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont, but they cannot open a service facility!

I should be able to have my car serviced in Vermont. I want to keep my dollars in Vermont, not spend it in NH, MA or NY. A Tesla facility would both attract people to Vermont and grow jobs here.

Electric vehicles are one of the main ways we can fight climate change. If you are serious about fighting climate change, please vote for S.47.

This legislation has already been delayed for a few years by the protectionist lobbying of the car companies. Please, act on the bill this year.

Chris Lyon
34 Tracy Drive
Burlington VT 05408
Christopher Lyon lyonchris79@gmail.com

Dear members of the House Transportation Committee,

First I would like to congratulate you on an incredibly forward thinking transportation bill. It makes me proud to be a Vermonter knowing that our representatives are genuinely trying to address the biggest climate pollution challenge in our state while also addressing affordability in transportation in such a holistic manner.

Secondly, I am writing to urge your support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open instate service facilities. We need to ensure that ALL electric vehicles can be both sold AND serviced in this state. This helps to accelerate our progress towards reducing emissions, increasing transportation affordability, and keeping Vermont **dollars and jobs in state**, rather than spending them in NY or MA for servicing.

We need to keep Vermont as open to the businesses of the future as possible. It makes no sense that people can purchase an electric vehicle in Vermont but have to drive to New York or Massachusetts to have it serviced because of an arcane law. We should be promoting rather than banning business growth in those sectors that will help us make progress on reducing climate emissions and costs.

Many thanks for all you do.

Respectfully,

Linda McGinnis

Hello,

I am writing to urge support of S.47, the bill to allow direct to Consumer Electric Vehicle (EV's) companies to open instate service facilities. EV's are the future of transportation so whether it is Rivian, Lucent, Bollinger or Tesla they should be able to be serviced in VT.

If VT is serious about combating climate change, the use of EV's should be encouraged in any way possible. Meaning, taking away the barrier of getting them serviced here. I've owned a Tesla EV since 2014, now I have to take my vehicle to Latham NY or Watertown MA to get certain service done. It's a BIG impediment and hassle. Our company currently has a fleet of 12 vehicles. I would like them to ALL be EV's but can't justify it because if one breaks down the lost time for an out of state repair would be too costly. Why not pay VERMONTERS to do that work and take away a barrier to doing good things for the environment?

I've read that our air quality is really quite bad, largely due to the transportation sector. It makes sense since there are very few public transportation options. EV's would help solve that. Make them easy to own here. Let's be a leader in clean air commitment.

This legislation has been delayed for a few years due to protectionist lobbying by legacy car companies. They will soon be producing EV's too. Please pass S.47 so that ALL EV manufacturers cars can be serviced here in VT by Taxpaying Vermonters.

Thank you,

Steve Sisler
CEO & Founder
802-793-3744
Sisler Builders
Stowe, Vermont

Thanks very much for sharing this with the House Transportation Committee members:

I am writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility.

It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont, but they cannot open a service facility!

I would prefer to have my car serviced in Vermont. I want to keep my dollars in Vermont, not spend it in NH, MA or NY.

There's no good reason to oppose this bill. A Tesla facility would both attract people to Vermont and grow jobs here.

This legislation has already been delayed for a few years by the protectionist lobbying of the car companies. I urge you to act on the bill this year.

Any opposition on the part of the legacy car companies is in fact opposition to one of the most important ways individuals have of fighting climate change.

Electric vehicles will become one of the easiest ways individuals have to fight climate change, so all EV's should be supported, and EV competition encouraged.

If you are serious about fighting climate change, please vote for S.47.

Sincerely,

Lydia Spitzer
North Pomfret

Lydia Spitzer <antaeus659@gmail.com>

To the members of the House Transportation Committee

I am an economist and a long-time Vermont resident writing to urge support for S.47, the bill to allow direct to consumer electric vehicle companies to open an instate service facility. I am also a Tesla owner. I live on a dirt road and there was no electric vehicle that would hold up to our mud season conditions until the Tesla Model Y became available. I have had it since

June 2020 and it is a wonderful vehicle, perfect for what I need. And I had a great experience buying the car directly from Tesla. My only complaints—I had to go to a service center in NY to get a Tesla trailer hitch installed. I would much rather have taken my business to a service center in Vermont and paid sales tax to my own state.

Any legislator who opposes this bill is only helping legacy automakers who, despite having the opportunity, have failed to meet the needs of Vermont residents for clean transportation. I am also an economist and I would like to point out that any legacy automaker could have done exactly what Tesla has done, but for whatever reason they did not. That applies to both building electric cars and taking advantage of the internet. Tesla's innovations are a great thing for Vermont consumers.

The state has spent millions of dollars to promote purchases of electric vehicles. S.47 supports that important goal, and it will generate revenue for the state through sales taxes. Legacy dealers and service centers will adjust.

All Vermonter car owners will benefit from removing this barrier to Tesla, not just a privileged few. Teslas are now in reach of middle income Vermonters. The Model 3 and Model Y are more expensive than comparable gas vehicles, but after accounting for fuel, repair and depreciation costs over 5 years they are less expensive. And 5 years from now used Teslas will be within reach for low-income households.

Don't stand in the way of a change that is long overdue. This legislation has already been delayed for a few years by the protectionist lobbying of the car companies. Please pass it now.

David Stapleton
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I understand that the Transportation Committee has begun discussion on S.47 this week. I would like to voice my support for any bill that removes barriers to Vermonters purchasing electric vehicles. This bill appears to help address that issue.

I have been interested in purchasing a Tesla for over five years now. The primary reason I have not purchased one so far is because of the fact that there is no local service center. Currently, if my Tesla needed any servicing that requires putting it up on a lift, I would need to make a round-trip drive to Albany, NY or Boston, MA and, if the repair can't be completed that same day, I would need to spend a night in a hotel and spend most of a second day waiting for the repair to be completed. If parts need to be ordered, I would need to make two of these trips. Surely we can do better than this.

Of course, it's not just potential Tesla buyers that are facing this barrier. Rivian, Lucid, and other independent US auto manufacturers will begin selling their EVs online this year and next. Volkswagen is selling their ID.3 EV online and has announced that they will do the same when they begin distributing their ID.4 model later this year. Volvo's Polestar brand is also using the same type of system. It's reasonable to expect that this

type of arrangement will continue to become even more the norm in the coming years, as more EVs become available.

I understand that the existing automobile franchise dealers feel threatened by this new form of competition. But in the end, this is a free market issue: what's in the best interest of most Vermonters?

Making it easier for more Vermonters to own an EV is a simple action we can take to help meet the state's climate change action goals, at no additional cost to taxpayers. And allowing direct-to-consumer EV manufacturers to service their products right here in Vermont will prevent money from being spent in other states, instead of right here at home.

Thanks for your consideration.

~ Peter
PETER STRAUBE

Peter Straube <pstraube55@gmail.com>

I am writing to urge you to support S. 47, the bill to allow direct-to-consumer EV companies to open an in-state service facility.

It makes no sense that Tesla can sell cars in Vermont but they cannot open a service facility.

I got my Tesla in 2018 because I didn't want to burn gas anymore to get around. I would prefer to have my car serviced in Vermont, in order to keep my dollars in Vermont and not spend them in NH, MA or NY.

There's no good reason to oppose this bill, especially if you want to encourage the adoption of EV's in the state.

A Tesla facility would both attract people to Vermont and grow jobs here.

The protectionist lobbying of "legacy" car companies has already delayed this legislation has already for a few years.

Their opposition to the bill is in fact is opposition to one of the most important ways individuals have of fighting climate change.

Further, it looks a lot like spite on the part of companies less innovative than Tesla has been, who resent the company's success. It was Tesla, however, not Ford, GM or Toyota, that proved the market demand for EV's and showed their competitiveness with gas cars.

EV's will become one of the easiest ways individuals have to fight climate change, so all EV's should supported, and all EV competition encouraged. Opposing this bill is going to look like discrimination against Tesla owners, who often have money to complain with.

If you are serious about fighting climate change, you will have to support S. 47.

Many thanks!

Lise

Dear Committee Members,

First off, I want to extend my deep appreciation for your commitment to public service. We live in challenging and interesting times, and I think it's important that you hear gratitude for your willingness to step into the fray.

I understand that you're considering legislation to allow Tesla to open a service center(s) in Vermont, and I wish to share my support of such a decision. I believe in renewable and sustainable energy sources and I enjoy knowing that the vehicle I own isn't contributing to greenhouse gas issues. I went from spending \$250/mo in gas to \$40/month in electricity for roughly the same driving distances. Given our state's commitment to the environment, it makes sense that we would do all we can to support companies like Tesla to bring their businesses to Vermont.

I drive a Model Y (and I love it) and while the car needs very little repair/servicing, when it does I'm required to drive the car to Latham, NY (3 hours each way). It makes ownership of a Tesla in Vermont challenging and one of the only detractors I share with those looking to acquire one. So while I'm doing my part in driving a car that is good for the environment, the laws of our state won't allow my choice to be easily supported by the company I purchased the car from.

I appreciate that no piece of legislation is devoid of complexity, and I hope that you're able to create a pathway to allow Tesla to open a service center in Vermont. I understand that other car companies are introducing electric vehicles through the existing dealer network and those owners will be serviced by those dealers and car companies. I'd like the same for those of us who have invested early in e-vehicles, specifically Tesla.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Gary

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*Dr. Gary Margolis
Richmond, Vermont
802-373-1977 (m)*