

June 20, 2012



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Louisiana State University STARS documentation for an innovation credit. Last summer, the Louisiana State University opened the state's first major entry into the electric vehicle infrastructure market on July 6, 2012. LSU and Entergy unveiled two electric vehicle chargers that were installed on central locations on the LSU campus. Through projects like this one, the LSU sustainability team has consistently made great strides in sustainability and educating the public.

The charging stations, located across from Patrick F. Taylor Hall and in the Hart Lot near Kirby Smith, are the first to be installed on a Louisiana university campus for the sole purpose of providing free charges to faculty, staff and students owning electric cars as well as for research purposes. The chargers were donated to LSU by Entergy and were paid for by Entergy shareholders through its Environmental Initiatives Fund, which was established as a mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through innovative and promising projects.

There is only one other known EV charging station at a university in the state at the UNO Engineering Building. The location of these stations are critical to linking a network grid along Interstate 10—an identified business and growth corridor in our region. The next closest EV station is in Beaumont, TX.

I was there the first time an EV vehicle was charged up at the LSU station – it was indeed a ground breaking day in Baton Rouge. These charging stations can provide a full charge to any EV on the market. Additionally, the program enables the university to collect usage data and conduct critical research about the chargers' impact on consumers and the electric grid.

My organization, the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Cities Coalition, helped facilitate the process and we saw first-hand the impact the opening of these stations had in the media and on the community. One of the greatest barriers to adoption of a new technology such as EV is "range anxiety" and lack of infrastructure. The installation of these first EV charging stations on such a central location is an essential first step to removing the barriers of acceptance for this new sustainable technology.

LSU has shown leadership in our community by being first to market with these charging stations. The next generation of affordable plug-in electric vehicles hit the Baton Rouge market just months after the stations opened - the timing of this event could not have been more perfect.

Sincerely,

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