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Written Testimony of Emily Wimberger, Rhodium Group, on the Future Fuels Act: HF2083

My name is Emily Wimberger, and I am an economist at Rhodium Group, an independent firm whose research supports decision-makers in the public, corporate, and non-profit sectors. Prior to joining Rhodium, I was the Chief Economist at the California Air Resources Board where I worked on climate and air pollution polices including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

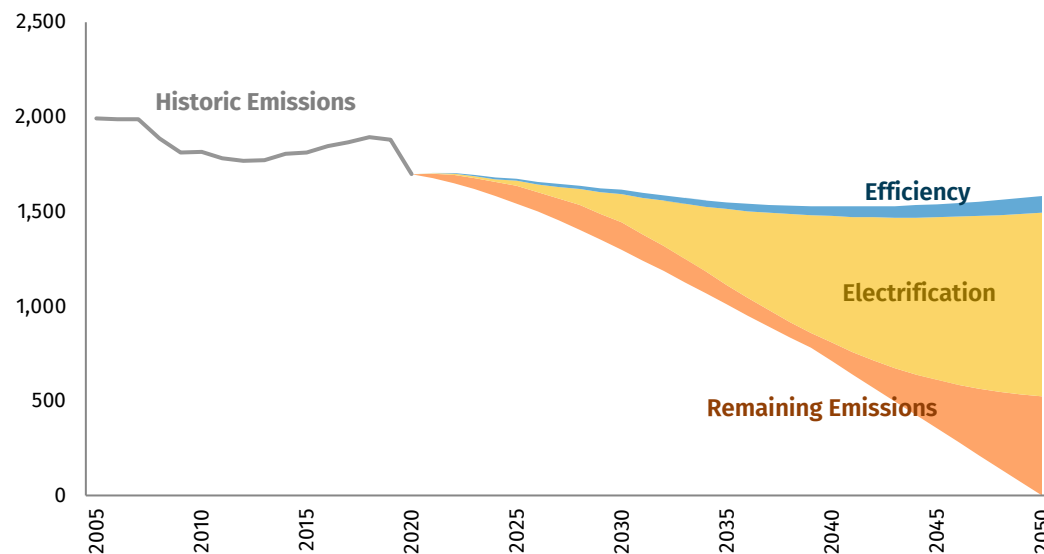
Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the US, accounting for 33% of the economy-wide total in 2019. Looking forward, 1.6 billion tons of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are projected to come from the transportation sector in 2030. Under current policy, the US is not on the path to net-zero emissions by mid-century – which is the scientific consensus needed to stave off the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

In an analysis released in January 2021, Rhodium Group identified transportation pathways to net-zero emissions and found that in the transportation sector, a portfolio of strategies – including vehicle electrification, efficiency improvements, and low carbon fuels - is the lowest cost and most likely to succeed in reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing equitable access to clean transportation.

Even with aggressive electrification where more than half of all LDV sales nationally are electric by 2030 and nearly 90% by 2035, there are still 525 million tons of GHGs remaining in the transportation sector in 2050, as outlined in Figure 1. Clean fuels will be needed to close this transportation emissions gap.

Figure 1
US transportation emissions with decarbonization strategies, 2005-2050

Million metric tons CO₂e



Source: Rhodium Group and EER

Achieving net-zero emissions in 2050 will require aggressive policy action to deploy a portfolio of clean fuels – from research and development of advanced technology drop-in fuels to durable market signals like low carbon or clean fuel standards. We find in our modeling that a combination of advanced biofuels, electrofuels and carbon-neutral fossil fuels can successfully close the transportation emissions gap and put the US on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Rhodium report is attached and available on the Rhodium website at: <https://rhg.com/research/closing-the-transportation-emissions-gap-with-clean-fuels/>

Thank you,

Emily Wimberger
Climate Economist
Rhodium Group