

Sen. Kapenga and Rep. Brooks: Introduce 'Electric Vehicle Freedom Act'

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Madison, WI—Today, Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) and Senator Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield), in a press conference, unveiled the “Electric Vehicle Freedom Act.” In addition to the press conference, lawmakers had the opportunity to test-drive various Tesla vehicles and meet with Wisconsin owners of these American-made products.

This legislation allows manufacturers of solely electric-powered automobiles to sell directly to consumers. Whether consumers choose to purchase a traditional gasoline-powered automobile or a vehicle that operates on electricity, they should have that opportunity to do so, free from government interference. By amending Wisconsin’s dealer franchise statutes, the legislature can make clear that electric vehicle manufacturers like Tesla may sell their products directly to consumers in Wisconsin.

“Having the ability to purchase products of your choosing without government intrusion, is the essence of capitalism. In addition to consumer choice, this bill is about creating high-paying jobs and promoting American-made products. I very much believe in the ‘America First’ principle. This legislation puts American and Wisconsin consumers, first,” said Representative Rob Brooks.

“I am excited to be putting forward legislation that will give consumers more choice and foster greater competition in the automobile market. There is a strong demand

for these vehicles and this bill will give consumers the ability to buy their car of choice in Wisconsin without driving across state lines,” said Senator Chris Kapenga.

Wisconsin could benefit from Tesla’s plans to expand its locations and charging stations throughout the United States. Tesla is already planning to double the number of charging stations worldwide and plans to increase its retail, delivery, and service locations by 30% in 2017. Additionally, the influx of hybrid technology in the automobile sector will result in the creation of more high-paying jobs for Wisconsin taxpayers.

Tesla is the first successful American automotive start-up in the United States in more than fifty years. Furthermore, Tesla manufactures and assembles all of its vehicles in the United States.

“This legislation is a win-win for all Wisconsinites, as it emboldens consumer choice, grows our economy, and reduces the nation’s carbon footprint by making emissions-free vehicles more readily accessible in Wisconsin. The Badger State is poised to electrify the market,” Representative Rob Brooks stated.