Good morning, Senator Markey, esteemed committee members, and fellow participants.

My name is Josh Aviv, and I am the CEO of SparkCharge, a Massachusetts-based small business committed to building the future of electric vehicle (EV) charging. At SparkCharge, we provide mobile and flexible EV charging solutions called Charging As A Service that empower fleets and communities to adopt clean transportation without infrastructure hurdles.

Today, I am honored to discuss how federal policies profoundly impact our ability, and that of countless other small businesses in Massachusetts and across the nation, to innovate, grow, and lead in the clean energy economy.

First, tariffs significantly affect businesses like SparkCharge by increasing the cost of essential components by +30%, such as batteries and electronic equipment, most of which remain dependent on global supply chains. For small businesses, these increased costs result in reduced competitiveness, slower innovation, and financial strain as we scale operations and strive to offer affordable clean energy solutions.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has been transformative for the clean energy sector and companies like ours. Its incentives have spurred crucial investment, job creation, and technological innovation in clean energy. Should these incentives be removed, we would see disruption to ongoing projects, decreased future investments, and a loss of critical momentum in our journey toward electrification and sustainability. Specifically for SparkCharge, the elimination of IRA-supported incentives would increase the cost of capital significantly, diminishing our global competitive position.

Moreover, the role of venture capital is indispensable in fueling innovation and growth within the clean energy sector. Venture capital was instrumental in helping us finance research, develop, scale our operations, and expand our market reach. A reduction in available venture capital funding due to changing federal policies and economic uncertainty would severely limit growth, stall promising new technologies, and threaten jobs and economic progress in Massachusetts.

Manufacturing domestically in the USA remains a critical priority for SparkCharge and other small businesses. Local manufacturing capabilities reduce supply chain vulnerabilities, generate quality employment opportunities, and expedite innovation cycles. Federal support through incentives and infrastructure investment strengthens our ability to produce competitively priced products domestically, enhancing business resilience and national economic security.

Additionally, the clean vehicle tax credits under current federal policies significantly stimulate demand for electric vehicles, directly benefiting SparkCharge and the broader EV ecosystem. Increased adoption rates of EVs naturally lead to heightened demand for charging infrastructure solutions. Removing or reducing these credits would dramatically slow EV adoption, negatively impacting market opportunities for small businesses in the EV charging sector and impeding our nation's clean transportation transition.

Lastly, tax credits like Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit, tailored specifically for small businesses, are vital, leveling the playing field by enabling innovative startups and small companies like ours to invest robustly in research, workforce development, and growth. Eliminating these credits would disproportionately burden small businesses, increase operational costs, and weaken our competitive standing relative to larger, established corporations.

In conclusion, continued federal support through fair tariffs, sustained incentives from the IRA, a robust environment for venture capital, strengthened domestic manufacturing capabilities, stable clean vehicle tax credits, and targeted small business tax credits are indispensable to SparkCharge and similar innovative companies. Such supportive policies ensure small businesses remain competitive, innovative, and integral in driving America's clean energy future.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to testify today. SparkCharge remains steadfast in our commitment to collaborate with policymakers to reinforce the clean energy economy, promote innovation, and foster sustainable, equitable growth for our communities.