Dear Editor:

The article, "An Electric Car, Booted," by Linda Hales and dated June 16, incorrectly implies that the museum removed the EV1 from display upon request by General Motors in advance of the release of a documentary critical of GM.

This is incorrect and there is no relation between the EV1s removal and the release of the film. This article is simply speculation by the reporter, mixing together coincidental events to imply a conspiracy.

The EV1 was taken off view as part of a standard rotation of objects; short term displays of 3 months to one year are common at the museum. More than four million visitors saw the EV1 displayed in a prominent location during the 15 months it was on view - much longer than originally planned. The decision to rotate vehicles was made in January 2006, long before any release dates for the film were known.

The museum maintains full control of its exhibitions and programs. Decisions are made by our curators and by me in accordance with the standards and reputation of the Smithsonian Institution.

Brent D. Glass
Director
National Museum of American History