

Testimony **in opposition to** H5076 Article 5 Section 3-EV Registration Fee

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2025

To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I strongly oppose increased registration fees only to EVs, because they are counterproductive to both the state EV tax credit and the goals of the RI Act on Climate. At the current stage of the renewables transition, we must incentivize ownership of EVs and not penalize residents for helping to implement the Act on Climate. It's just a really bad idea!

According to the [US Department of Energy](#)<sup>1</sup>, there were 6,400 battery electric vehicles (BEV) and 5,100 plug-in hybrids registered in Rhode Island in 2023 (the most recent year for which we have data), compared to 793,000 gas-powered vehicles and 11,000 diesel-fired vehicles. BEV and plug-in hybrids together represented 1.4% of the vehicles on the road. A conservative assumption that BEVs are replacing internal combustion engine cars and their gasoline usage 1:1 means a 1.4% reduction in gasoline use and gas tax revenues.

A 1.4% decline in gas tax revenues does not warrant taking immediate action, though we will have to act in future years in order to pay for road maintenance.

When we do so, I will still strongly oppose an EV-only fee. All light duty vehicles (cars, light trucks, SUVs) should pay higher registration fees. These fees should increase with vehicle weight, because heavier vehicles cause more wear and tear. This would also disincentivize larger passenger vehicles for their deadlier impact in accidents with smaller cars and pedestrians. The gas tax should be maintained as it is, as a carbon tax.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and for your work on the appropriations.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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<sup>1</sup> <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicle-registration>