

Written testimony in opposition to the proposed electric vehicle registration fee in Governor McKees proposed FY 2026 budget H5076 Article 5 Section 3

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

My name is Jessie Kingston and I live in Providence RI. I am submitting testimony in opposition to the proposed electric vehicle registration fee in Governor McKees proposed FY 2026 budget H5076 Article 5 Section 3. To meet our critical Act on Climate emissions reductions, we need to incentivize more electric vehicles as opposed to gas vehicles. This fee would disincentivize EV adoption. While I understand the purpose of this fee, it is using a stick against EV owners, instead of the carrot that is needed.

When I was shopping for a new car 7 years ago, I was pleasantly surprised by the considerable rebate I got by purchasing a Toyota Prius Prime hybrid EV. I might well have considered other, non EV vehicles without that incentive. As a first-time EV owner, one naturally becomes more aware of the miles one drives (or VMT, vehicle miles traveled) since planning where, when and how often to charge is a new routine that depends largely on how many miles one drives. Even though my EV is a hybrid —that automatically changes to gasoline if necessary before recharging—I have intentionally reduced my VMT by combining errands, carpooling, or walking simply by being aware of how far I can go on one charge.

I agree with the suggestions contained in Green Energy Consumers Alliance's testimony for alternative ways to collect funds to make up for less gas purchased by EV owners, instead of penalizing EV owners for helping to achieve our mandated Act on Climate goals.