
February 21st, 2025

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

I live in Tiverton. 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 Act on Climate emissions reductions, we must replace more gas cars with electric vehicles, and this fee would disincentivize EV adoption.

Please let it be noted that this letter includes sensitive private information. It has been anonymized.

I am a disabled environmentalist who lives on Social Security disability payments for reasons that are medically severe. My monthly income from Social Security is approximately \$3,000 per month. I own an ABLE Account through my generous loving mother and together, she and I are planning to purchase an upcoming Tesla Model Q for less than \$30,000. It is my dream to own an EV, yet it would be an extreme hardship for me to pay \$300 a year on a fixed income just to maintain an EV.

Who am I? I have an undergraduate degree in Geology and Geophysics from Yale University and a master's degree in the Atmospheric Sciences from Colorado State University in Fort Collins Colorado (a top program in its field). I have worked in sustainability and as a climate scientist for the insurance industry.

Electric vehicles cannot be only for the wealthy to escape our collective guilt from global warming. It sets us back hundreds of years to be a society in which the wealthy can buy their way out of sin. It seems that Governor McKee is riding on this apparent fact in imagining that he is only taxing the wealthy.

One might respond that I have other cheaper options if I want to own an EV. My response is that most of those options are found wanting. The Nissan Leaf, for example, has serious deficits that make it a rudimentary solution at best. The Nissan Leaf's pricing structure is also similar to the Model Q. One might then respond that I could purchase a plug-in hybrid; I consider hybrids a fool's errand against the imminent rapid march of global warming. I also will not consider a used EV thanks to the possible degradation of the batteries by the previous driver. I'm working on it, but nothing really turns up as completely viable unless I pay at least \$30,000.

I beg you please reconsider the EV registration fee. It is a hardship for me. To provide one last real measure of how hard this is, please consider a few numbers from my budget. The following is what I can afford. My monthly electric bill is a mere \$35 which includes the Green Up surcharge as a provider of 100% green electricity. I own a flip phone instead of a smart phone for \$32 per month. I am frugal. I do not spend. And yet I am providing that \$300 per year is an extreme hardship. It is a disincentive.

Thank you for your time.

Sincere regards,

T.A.K.
