
February 24, 2025

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I have owned plug-in hybrid vehicles for eight years and I am writing in favor of the new EV registration fee proposed in the 2026 budget bill H5076, Chapter 5, Section 3.

Considering the gas tax currently paid by owners of non-electric vehicles, I feel the governor's recommended fee of \$150/year would be fair for a car like the most popular battery electric vehicle, the Tesla Model Y. And I concur that discounting that fee by 50% would be appropriate for plug-in hybrids.

However, I recommend that the EV registration fee also vary with vehicle weight, just as current registration fees do. So, for example, the EV registration fee for a Hummer EV should be roughly twice that for a Model Y.

Similarly, since a portion of the gas tax is currently used to help fund RIPTA, I would like to see 30% of the revenue collected through the new EV registration fee be allocated to the RIPTA Operations budget.

I understand that the gas tax is increased periodically to compensate for the impact of inflation on transportation system maintenance. It seems to me that the new EV registration fee should similarly increase over time.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Neill
Cumberland, RI