



**December 13, 2022**  
**Interested Party Testimony, House Bill 346**  
**Before the House Committee on Transportation & Public Safety**

Chair Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the Ohio House Transportation & Public Safety Committee:

My name is Adam Headlee, and I am the Manager of State Government Affairs for Clean Fuels Ohio. We are a clean transportation advocacy non-profit which seeks to improve air quality and health, reduce environmental pollution, and strengthen Ohio's economy by increasing the use of cleaner, domestic fuels and energy saving vehicles. I write to you today as an interested party to the substitute bill being considered for House Bill 346.

HB 346 has gone through multiple iterations this General Assembly. This most recently proposed substitute bill (I\_134\_0764-5) would redefine hybrid vehicles as vehicles that are powered with both a combustion engine and plug-in electric power source, and electric vehicles as vehicles exclusively powered by an electric battery. Currently, any plug-in vehicle – whether hybrid or fully electric – is considered under the Ohio Revised Code as a full electric vehicle, and is subject to an additional \$200 registration fee. Non-plug-in hybrid vehicles, by contrast, are subject to an additional registration fee of only \$100. However, a plug-in hybrid vehicle runs partially on gasoline, and therefore its owner must also pay gas tax, in effect uniquely penalizing those owners with additional fees on top of existing taxes. The substitute bill for HB 346 would make plug-in hybrids subject to the \$100 hybrid registration fee instead, while eliminating that fee for non-plug-in hybrids such as a Toyota Prius. Full electric vehicles would still pay a \$200 registration fee.

Clean Fuels Ohio has been supportive of similar legislation in the previous General Assembly. At this time, we are awaiting the completion of a financial and local impact report for the substitute bill and look forward to reviewing that document when it is ready. We are greatly encouraged to see the conversation about hybrid vehicle registration fees continuing to evolve, and we are eager to remain engaged in discussions about how best to make energy-efficient vehicles more accessible to Ohio consumers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

**Adam J. Headlee**  
**Manager, State Government Affairs**  
**Clean Fuels Ohio**