

Representative Brett Hudson Hillyer

Ohio's 51st House District

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for giving me the chance to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 201 alongside my joint sponsor, Representative Demetriou.

House Bill 201 will preclude the State of Ohio from signing on to, or in any other way, forcing emissions standards through emergency protocols of the Clean Air Act of 1970. Specifically, it will preclude the State of Ohio from joining emergency pollution and smog controls, promulgated by the state of California for the benefit of Los Angeles County. This legislation is essential to protect consumer choice, encourage market diversity, and maintain affordability for Ohioans when it comes to purchasing automobiles and other equipment.

We believe that clean air standards should fall exclusively under federal jurisdiction, not a patchwork of regulatory schemes, set by a single state, many miles away. Ohio does not have the same population density, the same humidity, nor any similarity to that of Los Angeles County and therefore, should not be subject to rules and regulations set by California for the benefit of the City and County of Los Angeles. As such, House Bill 201 is simple:

First, it will allow Ohio consumers to choose the type of automobiles, lawn equipment, and other motorized equipment that best suits their needs and preferences. By preserving this choice, we allow consumers to make decisions that best align with their individual circumstances.

Second, this legislation will promote market diversity by ensuring a range of vehicle options for Ohioans. The continuation of a diverse market allows manufacturers to accommodate different consumer preferences and helps provide a wide range of price points, ensuring affordability for families and individuals.

Finally, this legislation will protect affordability for Ohioans by avoiding the costs associated with a mandatory electric vehicle program. While electric vehicles offer many benefits, they may currently come with a higher price tag compared to other vehicles. By preserving consumer choice and allowing for a variety of vehicle options, this legislation ensures that families and individuals can access transportation that is financially viable for them.

We truly believe that this legislation is essential for consumer freedom. It will prevent undue burdens on our residents, particularly those in low-income communities who may struggle with the higher costs of transitioning to electric vehicles.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 201. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Thank you.