



**American
Fuel & Petrochemical
Manufacturers**

1800 M Street, NW
Suite 900 North
Washington, DC
20036

202.457.0480 office
202.457.0486 fax
afpm.org

**House Transportation Committee
HB 201 – Proponent Testimony
John Eick, Senior Manager, State & Local Outreach
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Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is John Eick and I am with the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers. AFPM is a national trade association representing virtually all of the domestic petroleum refining and petrochemical manufacturing capacity. Our members are also leading producers of renewable and biofuels in Ohio and across the country. In Ohio, our industries support 80,000 direct and indirect jobs and contribute more than \$17 billion annually to the state economy,

AFPM supports House Bill 201 and respectfully requests members of the committee to vote favorably for this legislation. We submitted formal written comments to this committee earlier this summer, so I will keep my remarks brief today.

California regulators recently promulgated new automobile emissions standards more stringent than those currently enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A major component of these California standards is an electric vehicle mandate. Starting in 2026, states that have adopted California's standards must have 35 percent of new car sales be electric. In 2035, this figure increases to 100 percent, which is effectively a ban on new cars with internal combustion engines powered by gasoline, diesel, or any other liquid fuel, including biofuels.

AFPM's opinion is simple. Sales of electric vehicles in Ohio, or any state for that matter, should be driven by consumer demand, not bureaucrats in Sacramento or anywhere else.

What House Bill 201 does is preserve consumer choice in Ohio. It allows those who want to purchase and drive an electric vehicle to do just that; but it also allows those who would prefer to drive gas- or diesel-powered cars into the future to do that, as well. Should this legislation be enacted into law, new cars sold in Ohio would still be regulated by federal emissions standards.

In closing, I just want to note that since California regulators have adopted these new electric vehicle mandates, many states are now looking at ways in which they can protect the choices of their constituents.

A week and a half ago, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a budget that included a provision barring any state agency from adopting these California standards. Ohio has the chance



to be the first state in the union to pass standalone legislation protecting drivers in the state, and AFPM certainly hopes that this body seizes that opportunity.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.