



Representative Brett Hudson Hillyer
Ohio's 51st House District

Chairman Reineke, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 201 alongside my joint sponsor, Representative Demetriou.

House Bill 201 aims to prohibit the State of Ohio from signing on to, or in any other way, imposing emissions standards through emergency provisions of the Clean Air Act of 1970. Specifically, it bars Ohio from adopting emergency pollution and smog controls dictated by California for the benefit of Los Angeles. This legislation is crucial to safeguard consumer choice, foster a diverse market, and maintain affordability for Ohioans in their automotive and equipment purchases.

We do not believe that Ohio should be subject to a patchwork of regulations established by a single state. Ohio's distinct characteristics, such as population density and climate, differ significantly from those of California, making it inappropriate for Ohio to be governed by California's rules. House Bill 201 is straightforward:

First, it grants Ohio consumers the freedom to select automobiles, lawn equipment, and other vehicles that align with their wants and needs. By preserving this choice, consumers can make decisions based on their individual circumstances.

Second, the bill promotes market diversity by ensuring a variety of options for Ohioans. A diverse market allows manufacturers to cater to varied consumer preferences and offer a broad range of price points, ensuring accessibility for families and individuals.

Last, House Bill 201 safeguards affordability for Ohioans by averting the costs associated with a mandatory electric vehicle program. While electric vehicles have benefits, they are often too expensive and may be inconvenient. By preserving consumer choice and offering a variety of options, this legislation ensures that transportation remains viable for individuals and families.

We firmly believe that this legislation is vital for consumer freedom, preventing undue burden on our residents, particularly those in low-income communities who may face challenges with transitioning to electric vehicles. We are grateful that the vast majority of our House colleagues agreed with our sentiment, as Senate Bill 201 was passed with 70 'yes' votes.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 201. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.