



HOUSE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE – HR 56 Proponent Testimony,
Wednesday, May 26th, 2021.

Americans for Prosperity – Ohio supports HR 56 and the call for reform of the outdated vehicle emissions testing program known as E-Check. The E-Check program disproportionately punishes poorer households with older cars. Moreover, emissions from outside the state can impact air quality in northeast Ohio meaning the E-check program may not even be addressing the problem. Instead of punishing those in northeast Ohio for possibly out-of-state emissions, lawmakers should consider other alternatives.

E-Check requires drivers to get their vehicles checked for emissions that can form ground-level ozone. Currently, the program requires residents of seven counties in northeast Ohio near Cleveland to have their vehicles tested every two years for vehicles older than four model years. Drivers with older vehicles, who are usually also lower-income, have a higher risk of failing the emissions test and end up spending money on costly repairs to get their vehicles to pass inspection.

The E-check program may not even be addressing the source of emissions. Emissions from one area frequently travel and settle in another area. Prevailing winds from the west can bring emissions from Chicago or Detroit that then settle in Ohio and trigger regulations imposed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

HR 56 calls upon the members of the U.S. Congress to reform the underlying legislation requiring programs like E-Check. Americans for Prosperity has supported federal legislation that would alleviate this problem such as the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016. Additionally, HR 256 calls on the USEPA and Ohio EPA administrators to explore alternatives to the E-Check program.

Low income families in Ohio should not be penalized for the emissions of other states. Thank you, Chairman Stephens, and Members of the committee for considering AFP's position on this matter.

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