



**Representative Joe Miller
House District 56**

**House Bill 251 Sponsor Testimony
February 15, 2022**

Good morning Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of House Bill 346 with my joint sponsor, Representative Weinstein. HB 346 would halve the additional motor vehicle registration fees for plug-in electric motor vehicles from \$200 to \$100 and hybrid motor vehicles from \$100 to \$50. Additionally, this legislation will alter which vehicles are classified as plug-in electric motor vehicles and hybrid motor vehicles. Under current law, a “plug-in electric motor vehicle” is a passenger car that is powered either wholly or in part by a battery cell energy system that can be recharged. This bill narrows the definition to a passenger car that is only powered wholly by a battery cell energy system. Furthermore, this bill broadens the definition so that a “hybrid motor vehicle” is a passenger car powered by an internal propulsion system that consists of a combustion engine and either a battery cell energy system that cannot be recharged, or one that can.

I have spoken to many hybrid and plug-in electric vehicle owners throughout the state who are unhappy about the fact that they were surprised with an increase in registration fees, which were approved in the 133rd GA’s transportation budget. Many also feel as though they are being overly burdened and punished for choosing an eco-friendly vehicle. Representative Weinstein will speak more to this piece of the legislation.

While we need to address issues with infrastructure funding, placing an unfair burden on families who choose to make an environmentally friendly decision is not the answer. These fees not only unfairly penalize EV owners, but disincentivizes BOTH consumers from making a switch to

[Type here]

green vehicle technology, and auto manufacturers looking to expand these new technology sectors into Ohio. As we are being reminded constantly that the vehicle of the future is electric, Ohio should take a step to welcome these manufacturers to our state. We repeatedly express in the legislature that Ohio is "Open for Business" and we have an opportunity to prove it to this growing sector. I encourage you to support this legislation to not only reduce carbon emissions and incentivize renewable energy, but also to demonstrate that Ohio is in fact, open for business. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and I will now pass along the floor to Representative Weinstein. Afterwards, we would be happy to answer any questions you might have.