

Dear Chair Baldrige,

I'm writing to express my support for House Sub Bill 346 in favor of re-classifying plug-in hybrid vehicles as a hybrid rather than as a pure EV for the sake of registration fees. I own a 2018 Honda Clarity plug-in hybrid. I specifically bought the vehicle to limit my exposure to gas price volatility since I commute 72 miles daily for work. On a full charge my car covers about half the distance in warm weather. There are no publicly available charging stations that fit my vehicle within 5 miles of my office so I use the combustion engine for 50% of my commute so I still buy gas regularly. Until public EV charging stations are ubiquitous in Ohio, which I believe is at least 10 years away, it is not appropriate to classify plug-in hybrids as an EV. Many states and the federal government provide incentives for consumers to buy alternative fuel vehicles. It seems counter-intuitive that Ohio would penalize plug-in hybrid vehicles owners by charging higher registration rates when the charging situation requires that we still buy fuel on a regular basis. Please consider re-clarrifying plug-in hybrids as a hybrid vehicle and reduce the registration fee to be consistent with the fuel buying requirements of owning such a vehicle.

Respectfully,

Dan O'Neil