

December 12th, 2022

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Ohio General Assembly
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 346 – Testimony in Support of Sub Bill HB 346

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

We write today in support of House Bill 346. The Electrification Coalition (EC) is a nationally recognized non-partisan, non-profit focused on achieving the mass adoption of EVs through a combination of stakeholder engagement, technical expertise, direct implementation, and policy support to facilitate the rapid deployment of electric vehicles (EVs). Such deployment of EVs on a mass scale combats national security, economic, and public health impacts, reducing our nation's dependence on oil in the transportation sector. The EC implements this mission through various policy and programming initiatives, which has included working as lead implementation partner for the Smart Columbus program and serving as national technical advisor to various Ohio cities and communities through the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge and Climate Mayors EV Purchasing Collaborative.

While EV technology has demonstrated incredible improvement since the current wave of commercial introduction, oil still accounts for 90% of all transportation energy. We have long seen EVs, specifically the domestic EV industry, as the most promising solution to address the enormous challenge that oil dependence poses to our nation. As the rest of the world leans into EVs, it is urgent that we scale the U.S. industry and do not trade reliance on one commodity, oil, for another, such as batteries or minerals. A critical piece in reshoring of an EV supply chain is the development and demonstration of a local EV demand.

The EC opposes punitive EVs fees. Any punitive fee, beyond what a normal fuel-efficient car would pay, will slow the transition to electric vehicles, especially in the early days of EV adoption where even small barriers can stifle market growth. Thus, punitive EV fees are a detriment to achieving our independence from the volatile and opaque global oil market and achieving other environmental, public health and economic benefits.

The EC supports Sub Bill HB 346, eliminating the extra fees paid by non-EV hybrid vehicle drivers for annual registration. This is a crucial first step in correcting Ohio's punitive EV registration fees. Beyond removing the EV registration fee imposed on non-EV hybrid drivers, the committee should consider removing the fee for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs). Both non-EV hybrid and PHEV drivers are double taxed, as they use gasoline and pay gas tax as well as the additional, punitive registration fees.

The committee should also revisit the amounts currently set for EV registration fees. Current EV registration fees are higher than what an equivalent internal combustion engine driver pays in gasoline tax, in addition to the taxes EV drivers pay on the electricity used to charge their batteries. Any fees

exclusive to EV drivers [should not exceed the equivalent gas tax](#) and should not be arbitrary in nature. EVs should cover their fair share of road usage, albeit not in a punitive manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Sub Bill HB 346.

Sincerely,

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