

Committee: Transportation and Public Safety (Doug Green Chair)  
Tuesday, November 17

My name is Camala J. Ross and I live in Valley View, Ohio. I bought my Chevy Spark EV in 2019 and have been shocked by the new registration fee. I completely understand the need to offset infrastructure but there are many points that make this fee proportionally unfair for EV and hybrid drivers.

1) Mileage - It's been relayed to me that the fee was derived from what EV drivers "would" have paid in gas taxes. The fact of the matter is I have a very low mileage EV and could never rack up the mileage that ICE cars make, in fact, if I have a long trip, I now have to take my ICE car. My commute is about 16 miles round trip. That is all I can do in the winter when my battery is degraded and when I have to run my heater. That means I'm charging at home every night and cannot drive any further than 16 miles. Not many people would limit themselves to this low of range but for me, having an EV is important for enough other reasons that I do it. If I drive EVERY day (which I don't do), that means I drive 5,840 miles a year. Most ICE drivers I know are well over 10,000 miles a year.

2) Road wear and tear - I have a tiny subcompact EV that is specifically built to be light weight. The fact is that EV's are lighter than the average ICE car due to framing and engines. My car is just over 2,000lb while my understanding is that the average car is 4K plus. Vehicle weight obviously has a lot to do with road wear and tear.

3) Driving style - It took me several months to get used to driving an EV. The style of driving is very different than an ICE car. I slowly accelerate, I use my lower gears to slow and, as my husband says, I now drive "like a grandma". My efficiency is much higher with an EV as it trains you to drive differently. Even if I were driving the same amount as an ICE driver, I would be driving more efficiently.

4) Sound - Some of the tax fees go towards roadside sounds barriers. EV cars make no sound.

5) Electric Taxes - Though I don't pay gas taxes, I pay plenty of electricity taxes at home. Ohio has one of the highest electricity taxes in America. In other words, I'm getting double-taxed. Instead of taxing me twice, maybe the electric companies should help to offset transportation costs.

Those are my top 5 reasons why this EV fee is disproportionately unfair to EV drivers. A friend of mine bought a Hybrid and after getting it registered, he specifically told me that he would not have gotten an EV if he knew there was a registration fee that high. This is a huge deterrent to driving electric. Many states across the country are going in the opposite direction, with incentives to drive electric. Ohio has none of those and is instead penalizing us?

Thank you for your time,  
Camala Ross