



Joe Miller
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I would first like to thank Chairman Ghanbari, Vice-Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee for allowing me to speak in support of House Bill 13. Due to my joint sponsor Representative Weinstein's absence, I will be speaking for both of us today.

In the 133rd GA transportation budget additional registration fees were added for owners of electric and hybrid vehicles as a way of offsetting the assumed loss of gas tax revenue. I want to be clear that the owners of electric and hybrid vehicles want to pay their fair share toward our state's infrastructure. My cosponsor can attest to this himself as an owner of a fully electric vehicle. We cannot afford to let any vehicle contribute to wear and tear on our roads and bridges without also contributing to their maintenance and construction. So long as the gas tax remains the primary source of funding for our infrastructure, some sort of fee on electric vehicles is necessary to avoid the problem of free-ridership. And while we all want to avoid that problem, we must ensure we are doing so fairly.

However, when it comes to traditional hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius, we are double taxing our constituents. Many hybrid vehicles have no external charging source, which means they exclusively run on gasoline. The only difference is that they have an internal mechanism that allows for slightly higher efficiency.

Due to advances in technology in standard combustion engines, gas mileage efficiency has improved across the board, oftentimes coming close to or even outpacing some of these traditional hybrid models. My office has even heard from one constituent whose vehicle was coded as hybrid without being advertised or listed as such, and therefore has to contest the status of his vehicle with the BMV or pay the additional \$100 registration fee each year.

This body has already agreed that the \$200 fee for plug-in hybrid vehicle owners amounted to more than their fair share, and the fee was lowered to \$150 in this year's Transportation Budget. I want to

be clear that the sub bill does not touch the existing fee structure for fully electric vehicles nor the newly lowered fee for plug-in hybrid vehicles. This bill takes the next step in making sure that we are not over taxing Ohio families for economic choices by eliminating the additional \$100 registration fee applicable to traditional hybrid vehicles. It will ultimately have a positive impact on the budgets of Ohioans who also continue to pay gas tax every time they visit the pump.

I have spoken to many hybrid vehicle owners throughout the state, and I am sure many of your offices have heard from constituents about this issue. It is time to bring relief to Ohio families.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

