



**Proponent Testimony by Jacob Schwemlein on House Bill 13
Director, Drive Electric Ohio, Clean Fuels Ohio
Homeland Security Committee
October 3, 2023**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Ohio House Homeland Security Committee:

My name is Jacob Schwemlein, and I am the Director for Drive Electric Ohio, the vehicle electrification program at Clean Fuels Ohio. We are a clean transportation advocacy non-profit which seeks to improve air quality and health, reduce environmental pollution, and strengthen Ohio's economy by increasing the use of cleaner, domestic fuels and energy saving vehicles.

I write to you today to submit proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 13, a proposed bill that will address burdensome registration fees for hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The bill will address the issue with hybrid vehicle owners being uniquely penalized on top of also paying existing gas taxes. This bill would make plug-in hybrids subject to a \$100 registration fee instead, while eliminating the additional registration fee for non-plug-in hybrids.

Clean Fuels Ohio supports this proposed change to the registration fee structure, and we are greatly encouraged to see the conversation about hybrid vehicle registration fees continuing to evolve. The current fee structure causes hybrid vehicle owners to be exposed twice to taxes meant for highway maintenance. In addition, the higher registration fees act as another barrier to more fuel-efficient vehicles for many Ohio families, thereby slowing the growth of cleaner transportation technology at a time when Ohio could be leading by example for the entire nation. Ohio should be setting a policy to support these vehicles for their lower emissions, lower fuel costs, and other benefits; not punishing early adopters with additional burdens.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and for allowing me to offer testimony on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jacob Schwemlein
Director, Drive Electric Ohio
Clean Fuels Ohio**