



Testimony of Joel Sheltroun, Arcimoto Governmental Affairs
In Support of HB 1391 with Amendments
For Committee Hearing on 3/11/22

Honorable Chair and Members of Maryland's House Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Joel Sheltroun and I am a former State Representative from Michigan. I am here to support HB 1391 and request amendments.

I have been working in the Three Wheel transportation sector nationally and with Congress since 2012 and worked with Maryland delegates on HB 805 in 2016, creating Maryland's original Autocycle definition. I was working with Elio Motors at the time, but now I am working with Arcimoto, who is manufacturing ultra-efficient three-wheeled electric vehicles in Eugene, Oregon. Arcimoto's mission is to reduce carbon emissions from transportation, by making the most efficient all-electric vehicle possible.

Arcimoto enthusiastically supports tax incentives to support the purchase of electric vehicles, especially two-and-three-wheeled ones. This kind of tax credit can make a huge impact on purchases of our vehicles, and we applaud and thank you for including it. I am also here to ask the committee to support Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo's amendment to update the definition of "autocycle."

When we passed the original autocycle definitions around the country, electric vehicles were not very big yet, and we were trying to describe what made something drive more like a car than a motorcycle. The definitions varied around the country; there is no ONE definition of "autocycle." Many definitions included steering wheels, but it turns out that they aren't always the best technology for ultra-efficient electric vehicles. Arcimoto uses handlebars instead, to save weight and save space. And because there are handlebars, the best way to accelerate is with a hand throttle rather than foot pedal. That actually makes it safer than a steering wheel and pedals, because you can't take your hands off the steering mechanism and keep going.

Steering wheels may become obsolete. The Tesla Model S is now being shipped with a steering "yoke" and General Motors just petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for an exemption to car rules concerning "steering wheels." Other manufacturers are testing with joysticks.

Arcimoto is asking you to support this revision to the Autocycle definition to support innovative design in ultra-efficient vehicles, and not to stay tied to old ideas of what makes something "more like a car," when cars themselves are changing rapidly. This amendment, and this bill, will help make Arcimoto's ultra-efficient three wheeled electric vehicles available to more people in Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted,

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