



Testimony to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 841 Transportation - Motor Fuel Tax Rates, Vehicle-Miles-Traveled Tax, and Farebox Recovery
Requirement (Transportation Equity, Fairness, and Privacy Act of 2024)
Position: Unfavorable

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
3 West, Miller State Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

I have been an Electric Vehicle (EV) owner since 2011 having experience with five EV makes/models. For over a decade I have been a part of and observing EV adoption in Maryland and across the United States. As such, I know it is important for me and fellow EV owners to pay a *fair share* of road taxes.

That said, the question becomes “What is my fair share?”

My understanding is that SB 841 would repeal the inflation adjustment of the gas tax. It would also specifically prohibit a vehicle-mile-tax, mile-based user fee, toll based on GPS tracking or “any other similar form of tax”. It also forbids installing a device to facilitate reporting the number of vehicle miles traveled. I also understand that the Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (TRAIN) commission was established to look into issues such as this and other questions but their recommendation report will not be delivered until the end of 2024. Meanwhile the multi-billion dollar shortfall in the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) looms.

I am strongly opposed to this bill because it proactively prevents work best left to the TRAIN commission. The bill is not unlike those passed in other state legislatures that have disallowed the term “Climate Change” and similar phrases in consideration of environmental or other state actions.

This approach does nothing to address the TTF issue in the short term nor allows time for the TRAIN commission complete their analysis and make recommendations based on real data. In fact, it feels like an end run around any conclusions the TRAIN commission may present. Data and analysis such as the September 2019 Consumer Reports report, *Rising Trend of Punitive Fees on Electric Vehicles Won't Dent State Highway Funding Shortfalls but Will Hurt Consumers*, needs to be considered along with other data such as Consumer Reports' Fact Sheets on individual states' EV Fee actions, for example the June 2023 Fact Sheet, *New Tax On Electric Vehicle Penalizes Consumers And Won't Solve Road Funding Problems In Pennsylvania* and other data found at https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/press_release/evfees/.

This bill screams out to be voted down in favor of “waiting for the TRAIN”.

Respectfully,

Joyce K. Breiner, CC-P®

