

Testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 1457 Alternative Fuel, Fuel-Efficient, and Electric Vehicles - Highway Use Fees

Position: Favorable With Amendment

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Room 251, Taylor House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

28 Feb 2025

Honorable Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Scott Wilson, and I drive a 2017 Chevy Bolt EV and a 2013 Nissan Leaf. I serve on the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council, and I'm Vice President of the Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington DC. The following remarks are entirely on my behalf.

I support calculating a highway user fee (HUF) for high mpg cars, since the majority of the shortfall in the TTF (21% of which is funded by the gas tax) is due to steadily rising CAFE mileage standards. To paraphrase what I often hear as an EV driver, are hybrids "paying their fair share"?

I also strongly support giving EV drivers with low annual miles an optional VMT, similar to current practice in Virginia. It makes no sense to charge a driver who drives 1000 miles per year the same flat fee as one who drives 20,000 miles per year. Privacy-protecting VMT systems currently operate in Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Virginia, and Maryland has piloted a VMT.

My amendment would be to increase the assumed mileage of the 25 mpg reference car. If I were unable to drive an EV, would I be driving a 25 mpg (low mileage in my opinion) gas car? No, I would be driving the highest mileage hybrid I could. The bill language allows for the reference car to be *at least* 25 mpg, so it could be adjusted to be closer to the 55 mpg typical of hybrids. Also, by 2031, the average light-duty fuel economy under CAFE is projected to reach 50.4 mpg. How long will we still be linking the HUF to the 25 mpg cars of yore? Few of those cars will still be on the road. Ideally by then, gasoline will be removed entirely from the TTF funding formula and replaced with a simple linear VMT for all vehicles.

Thank you for your time,

Scott Wilson