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TESTIMONY ON HB#1374- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Alternative Fuel, Fuel-Efficient, and Electric Vehicles - Highway Use Fees

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1374, Alternative Fuel, Fuel-Efficient, and Electric Vehicles - Highway Use Fees

This bill will adjust how the Maryland Transportation Fund is maintained when Maryland transitions from gas powered vehicles whose purchase of gas formerly supported, by taxes on fuel, the maintenance of that fund.

The transition from gasoline-powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs) and more fuel-efficient cars is creating a significant, long-term challenge for transportation funding in the United States, as the primary source of revenue—the gasoline tax—declines. As more vehicles use less fuel or none at all, the funds needed for repairing roads, bridges, and highways are shrinking, creating a widening infrastructure funding gap.¹

Impact on Transportation Funding

- **Declining Revenue**
- **The Federal Highway Trust Fund**
- **State-Level Impact**
- **Long-Term Deficit**

This bill will assist Maryland by repealing the annual surcharge required to register a zero-emission vehicle or plug-in electric drive vehicle; requiring the owners of certain vehicles to pay an annual highway use fee for each vehicle registered; establishing a Highway Use Fee Account within the Transportation Trust Fund; allowing the owners of certain vehicles to participate in the Program in lieu of paying the annual highway use fee; etc.

This bill creates a more certain funding stream to replace loss gas tax revenues.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1374.

¹ Google AI Search “loss of transportation funding from moving to non gas powered vehicles”