

HB 1374: Alternative Fuel, Fuel-Efficient, and Electric Vehicles - Highway Use Fees:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Environment & Transportation Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1374**.

While ensuring fair contributions to road maintenance is important, this bill unfairly targets and penalizes owners of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles—the very drivers who reduce emissions, improve air quality, and lower dependence on foreign oil. Imposing a new fee on these vehicles discourages adoption of cleaner technologies at a time when Maryland should be accelerating the transition to sustainable transportation to meet climate goals and reduce pollution-related health costs.

The current surcharge was a reasonable bridge to address gas tax revenue shortfalls from higher-efficiency vehicles. Replacing it with a new highway use fee adds administrative complexity, requires costly tracking systems (especially for the mileage-based option), and risks privacy concerns with odometer or GPS monitoring. It also creates a deterrence for Maryland residents to purchase or retain fuel-efficient/EV vehicles, potentially slowing progress toward cleaner air and energy independence.

Maryland should instead explore broader, equitable road funding solutions rather than singling out environmentally friendly drivers with higher costs.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 1374** and oppose new highway use fees that disproportionately burden owners of alternative fuel, fuel-efficient, and electric vehicles.

Thank you for your attention to this important transportation funding and environmental policy matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals