



Representative Bennett, Chair

February 27th, 2025

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports House Bill 5343

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, I write in strong support of House Bill 5343, which would further detail the State's responsibilities for purchases to align them with our Act on Climate goals. We specifically want to highlight the importance of the electric vehicle purchasing guidelines, outlined below.

Rhode Island Needs Increased Electric Vehicle Adoption

Electrifying vehicles is a critical way to reduce emissions in the transportation sector, an essential component to meeting the Act on Climate goals. Passing this bill would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the State's vehicle fleet and bring State purchasing behaviors in line with our climate goals while ensuring no new purchases of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles are made. Rhode Island adopted the Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks regulations in December 2023, and the increased delivery of electric vehicles (EVs) in Rhode Island due to these regulations will help the State access the quantity and variety of EVs needed to fill the gaps left by retiring ICE vehicles. The State will not need to worry about access to or availability of these essential vehicles, making the choice to adopt an EV-only purchasing requirement easier.

According to the 2025 [Lead by Example Report](#) published by the Office of Energy Resources, the percentage of zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) in the state's fleet as of June 30th 2024 was 15.4%, leaving an additional 9.6% of the State's fleet needing to be transitioned to ZEVs by 2030. This would ensure the State reaches the goal mandated in Governor McKee's [Executive Order 23-06](#) of 25% of the States light duty fleet being transitioned to EVs. Passing this bill will ensure that the State does not delay the adoption of additional EVs to satisfy this Executive Order and does not purchase a new ICE vehicle when transitioning to EVs is the direction we need to move.

Leading by Example Can Encourage Follow-On Behavior

Rhode Island leading by example with actions like EV purchases will send a positive signal to others considering the purchase of an EV and reinforce the idea that EVs are the future of transportation in the state. EV-only vehicle adoption by the State fleet may also increase awareness of the DRIVE-EV rebates available through the Office of Energy Resources. These rebates are available for qualifying EVs for both individuals and fleets, and may help make the decision to purchase an EV over an ICE vehicle.

Electric Vehicle Adoption and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Rhode Island made waves as the first state in the nation to complete Phase I of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, completing construction of an additional four (4) new Level 3 Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFC) along Interstate 95 in July 2024. This accomplishment marks Rhode Island's progress as a leading state installing EV chargers to ensure drivers have access to reliable and efficient charging throughout their journeys. The availability of EV charging infrastructure means that as the state fleet transitions to EVs, drivers will not be at a loss for where to recharge or concerned with how finding charging stations may impact their work.

Conclusion

In order to achieve the Act on Climate, we must implement larger policies that drive down emissions across all sectors. Passage of this bill further cements the State's role in "leading by example" and demonstrating how emissions reductions can and must be done. Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks Representative Boylan for introducing this bill and urges the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

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