

Testimony in support of H7578: Motor Vehicles Owned by a Governmental Body

Barbara Walsh, 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

Date of Hearing: February 10, 2026

To: Chair Shanley and the Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee

This bill addresses the reasonable need of the legislature to ascertain progress being made by all state entities in reducing gas emissions facilitated by increased purchasing of all types of EVs. The state often proclaims it leads by example in the efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. But such examples are insufficient to meet the Act on Climate goals. The transportation sector is a significant area to target but purchasing vehicles to accomplish this has been questionable. Accurate data would provide clarity on the state's efforts and would be useful information for legislators.

It is actually unfortunate that such legislation is needed to obtain this data. If the state was more serious about meeting the Act on Climate goals the compilation of this EV data would simply be a policy with collaboration of all state entities to accrue and provide the EV data. But if legislation is needed, I hope this bill is passed so the data can be provided.