



**Representative Evan Shanley, Chair**  
House State Government and Elections Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

**RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports House Bill 7988**

Dear Chair Shanley and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in support of House Bill 7988**, which would reduce the cost for safety inspections for electric vehicles.

**Electric Vehicle Owners Currently Pay More than Required for Inspections.**

We have heard from Rhode Islanders that they have been paying the standard \$55.00 charge for emissions and safety inspections when they bring a vehicle into a certified shop. Battery electric vehicles do not combust fuel and therefore have no tailpipe emissions which renders an emissions inspection unnecessary. However, EV owners are still made to bear this cost. H7988 recognizes that inequity and lowers the cost for EV owners to \$15.00 to accommodate the cost of a safety inspection. This charge is aligned with the [cost of a one-year safety inspection](#) for heavy duty vehicles.

However, we feel the legislature must go further than just passing H7988, and enforce the existing [R.I. General Law § 31-38-7](#), which states that the inspection fee “for every motorcycle and electrically powered vehicle, [shall be] \$11.00”. There appears to be a lack of clarity with the existing law and what EV owners are paying for inspections, which should be corrected to ensure that EV owners are paying the proper amount. While the [RI Department of Motor Vehicles](#) website clearly states that the inspection fee for motorcycles is \$11.00, there is no additional category for electric vehicles, which contradicts existing law.

**Consideration of a Transportation Study Commission**

The introduction of H7988 and existing R.I. Gen. Law § 31-38-7 highlights the need for a study commission to be formed to evaluate existing registration and inspection fees in Rhode Island for all vehicle types, and how those fees do or do not incentivize the adoption of zero emissions vehicles. This study commission could also evaluate the opportunity for Rhode Island and agencies like the Department of Transportation to develop alternative road and transit funding mechanisms, like a mileage-based user fee, or weight/size-based registration fee. These fees can more equitably charge vehicles for the damage they cause to the state’s roadways rather than relying on the gas tax as a proxy.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance urges the committee to support House Bill 7988 and ensure the Division of Motor Vehicles and certified inspection centers are adhering to R.I. Gen. Law § 31-38-7.

Sincerely,

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**Green Energy Consumers Alliance**  
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