

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.358

Rep. Mueller offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution reaffirming the State of Michigan's commitment to
2 refrain from intervening in the free market to forcibly transition
3 the state's automotive fleet from internal combustion engine
4 powered vehicles to electric-powered vehicles and, instead, to
5 allow traditional free market forces to determine the fleet's
6 makeup.

7 Whereas, One of the key features of Michigan's historic
8 identity has been its role as the undisputed leader in automobile
9 manufacturing. Henry Ford, one of the most famous Michiganders, and
10 whose name is now synonymous with modern automobiles, built his
11 first gas-powered internal combustion engine in 1893 on the kitchen
12 table of his then-home in Detroit. Over the next century, countless
13 innovations by Ford and other Michigan-based automobile

1 manufacturers cemented this state's role as the worldwide leader in
2 automobile manufacturing, even being indisputably recognized as the
3 "Automotive Capital of the World"; and

4 Whereas, Michigan's economic development has been - and
5 remains to be - tied to the automotive industry, which is still
6 overwhelmingly dependent upon conventional internal combustion
7 engine powered vehicles. Recent estimates have found that the
8 automotive industry contributes 225 billion dollars to our state's
9 economy, which is nearly half our gross state product. Nearly one
10 in five Michiganders has a job supported by the automotive
11 industry. The vast majority of the automobiles produced in the
12 United States remain equipped with traditional, internal combustion
13 engines. As of 2022, less than one percent of this nation's 250
14 million cars, SUVs, and light-duty trucks are fully electric.
15 Michigan's economy is clearly still dependent upon the
16 manufacturing of traditionally powered vehicles; and

17 Whereas, Nationwide, there has been an increased interest in
18 the viability of introducing mass numbers of electric vehicles on
19 America's roads. As Michigan explores this new frontier, government
20 leadership should not unnecessarily interfere in natural market
21 processes as other states have done. The state of California, for
22 example, plans to ban the sale of gas cars by the year 2035,
23 requiring instead that all new vehicles be powered by hydrogen or
24 electricity. Top-down mandates like these unnecessarily burden the
25 automotive industry, significantly impair the free market's ability
26 to select for the most desired and efficient product, and restrict
27 and distort consumer choices. Ultimately, government interference
28 in this way damages economies, undermines the free market, and
29 restricts the right business owners and consumers alike share to

1 make independent choices; and

2 Whereas, Though Michigan businesses have recently begun
3 initiatives to invest in making electric vehicle manufacturing a
4 viable component of our future automotive endeavors, we should
5 ultimately allow the free market to dictate that this transition be
6 natural, sustainable, and economically sound. Earlier this year,
7 General Motors announced a historic investment of billions of
8 dollars into electric vehicle manufacturing for the coming decades.
9 Other automotive manufacturers are making similar investments.
10 These investments hope to bring thousands of stable jobs developing
11 the infrastructure necessary to naturally phase electric vehicles
12 into our fleet. Continuing to allow market players - not the
13 government - to spearhead future development in Michigan's
14 automotive future is the best way to ensure that electric vehicle
15 rollouts last and do not unnecessarily burden the free market. For
16 over 100 years Michigan's private industry has led the nation's
17 automotive production. The advent of electric vehicles is no reason
18 to kick them out of the driver's seat; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we reaffirm the
20 State of Michigan's commitment to refrain from intervening in the
21 free market to forcibly transition the state's automotive fleet
22 from internal combustion engine powered vehicles to electric-
23 powered vehicles and, instead, to allow traditional free market
24 forces to determine the fleet's makeup; and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 Governor of Michigan, the Director of the Michigan Department of
27 Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Director of the Michigan
28 Office of Future Mobility and Electrification, and the Director of
29 the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget.