



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Checking Off E-Check

Interested Party Testimony
Ohio House Transportation Committee
Ohio House Bill 814

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As Prepared for Delivery

Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **Ohio House Bill 814**.

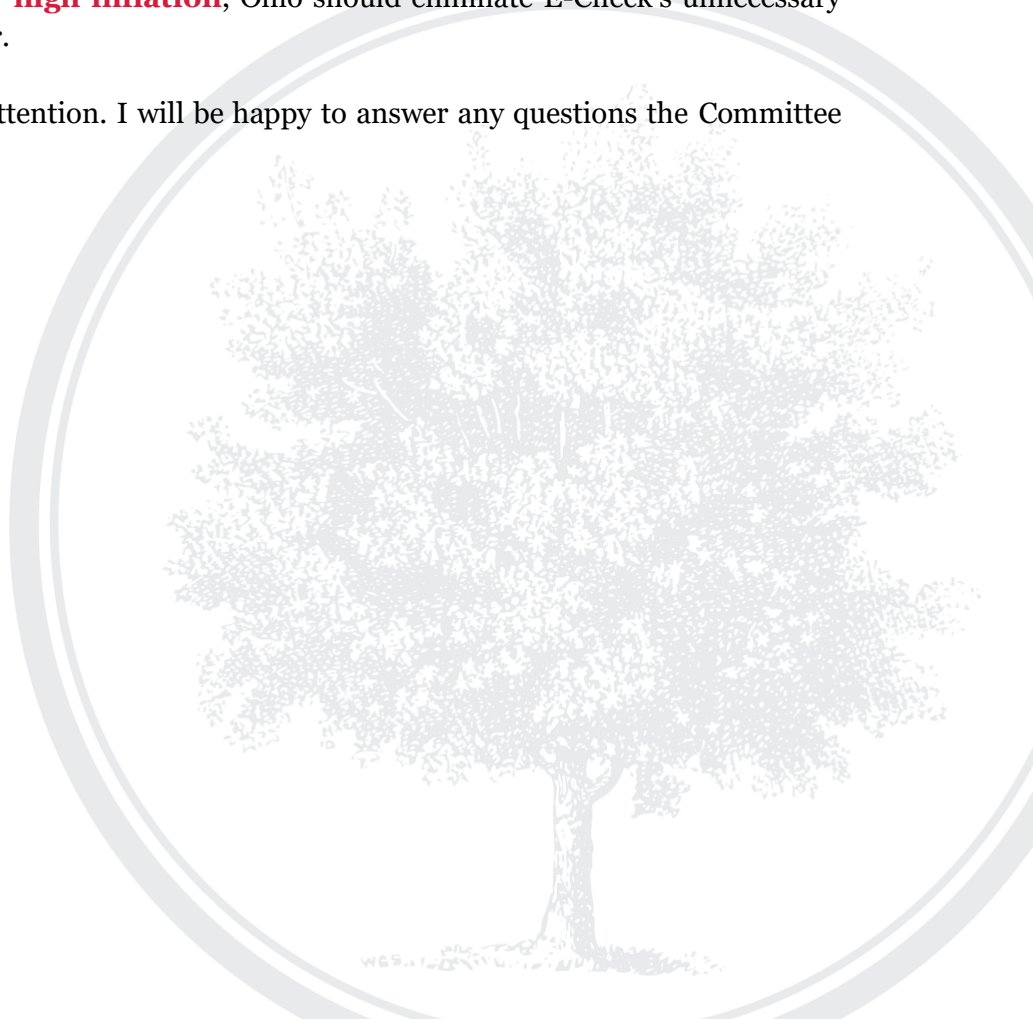
My name is Greg R. Lawson, and I am a senior research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 814 is a very simple piece of legislation. It requires the director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to determine whether pollutants in geographic areas subject to E-Check meet the Federal Clean Air Act’s **National Ambient Air Quality Standards** (NAAQS) and, if so, to submit a request to discontinue the state’s E-Check program. Upon approval, the director must then immediately terminate E-Check in an orderly fashion.

As this Committee is aware, Ohio’s E-Check program now applies to only seven northeast Ohio counties. But in April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency **announced** that the region had met federal ozone emissions requirements after demonstrating a 40 percent reduction in air pollutants over the past five years. Having achieved such significant improvement in air quality, it is now time for Ohio to move on from E-Check.

The program’s biennial testing requirements are time-consuming and expensive. Vehicles that fail initial tests may require unexpected costly repairs. And lower-income residents, more likely to rely on older vehicles for daily transportation, inevitably bear the brunt of the program’s burdensome mandates. Given the current financial pressures from rising **property taxes, gas** and **food costs**, and generally **high inflation**, Ohio should eliminate E-Check’s unnecessary burden sooner rather than later.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.



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