

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation
For HB 3418

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:33 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Gerri Barrick, Mrs
Self Quality Improvement Consultant
Belton, TX

Please vote no on this bill. This is another form of theft on the Texas tax payer. It is not the business of the government to track or control the movement and traveling habits of law abiding citizens. This is major big brother overreach.

Ray Worsham
Self
Elgin, TX

This inane Bill is simply an attempt to add another tax on top of the huge tax burden Texans already face. If any one on the committee believes this pilot will result in elimination or reduction of the fuels taxes, I have some oceanfront property in Brewster County to show them. I am opposed to this bill.

Philip Belz
self
Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. This is a pilot program to add mileage tax for drivers. The intended affect is to reduce the private vehicle usage and limit my driving from a distance perspective. This is obviously driven by a larger effort, a war on private transportation. Not to mention what this will lead to privacy-wise. My freedoms are instilled in the constitution to be able to move freely throughout the states. By instituting a tax on that movement in my private transportation you are in part attempting to limit my movement. I fear additionally how this will ultimately be tracked. Will the government want to tap into everyone's EV cars, which you will then mandate as well? Just so you can get accurate data for a program we never should have had in the first place? This idea must stop here. I am appalled with some of the ideas that are brought forward from our leaders, but I have faith that your judgment and discernment will prevail and you will recognize the destructive path this will lead us down.

JEROME YOUNG, DR
AWLF
THE WOODLANDS, TX
OPPOSE

Jennifer ADAMS

Self/retired

JOSEPHINE, TX

I deeply oppose HB 3418. AMERICAN citizens are maxed out on taxes. Our automobiles are taxed in so many different ways; fuel taxes, registration fees, inspection fees, sales tax...etc. I was a travel nurse and I had to travel up to 2 hours to work every day. Many people have to commute to work, especially those living in rural communities who generally are on a tight budget. This bill hurts the working class tax payer and allows the Globalists' agenda to squash private vehicles and travel for American citizens. America needs to remove itself from all Globalists' agendas which do NOT have American citizens' best interests at heart. HB 3418 should be eradicated and never ever considered in America. We are taxed on everything except air, and that will probably be next. Please squash this harmful bill.

Mike Guggisberg

Self/Retired

Alvin, TX

Oppose:

This would take the first steps of imposing a state mileage tax on every mile you drive. That's basically a toll tax for every mile you drive! While the pilot program would be for commercial trucks, the bill establishes a 'task force' to study replacing the state gas tax with a mileage tax applied to ALL cars, "The department shall submit to the legislature a report summarizing the results of the pilot program, including: (1) the feasibility of permanently assessing a vehicle mileage user fee." It even seeks funding for the pilot from Biden's infrastructure bill that Texans have resoundingly rejected. The GOP Platform has a plank opposing a mileage tax (plank #63). Let's remember: "Nothing is so permanent as a 'temporary' government program," insisted Milton Friedman.

Bradley Holt

Holt Land and Cattle

Spring Branch, TX

I am in opposition of any attempt to charge a fee for miles driven in a vehicle. Im embarrassed that someone has the nerve to try and limit my ability to travel without paying a financial penalty . I would think this restriction would also be unconstitutional

Deborah Calvin

Self

Plano, TX

I adamantly oppose this bill! This is just an incremental step toward fining citizens for using the roads. NO, NO, NO. If you're trying to get money from owners of electrical vehicles who don't by gas, find another way.

Shelly Smyth

Self

Tyler, TX

I live in a rural area that is unlikely to ever be serviced by public transportation. I use my vehicle primarily for doctor visits (many days two or more in opp[osite areas of Smith County,), and for shopoing for groceries and household supplies. This Bill would place an additioonal hardship on my family.

Brian McAuliffe

Self

San Marcos, TX

I and other I work with strongly oppose this bill. This bill would have 2 strong negative effects, First it would enable government to track where someone goes in their car, that is not any b usiness of government. Second it would now promote the use of more fuel efficient vehicles. If you are thinking electric cars are more fuel efficient they are not. They just push the pollution to high production pollution, high pollution in producing the electricity, and high pollution in disposal at the end of there use.

Shari London, Mrs.

Self - self-employed

Rockwall, TX

I oppose this bill. It is a slippery slope we don't want to start sliding down. This bill starts with truck traffic but looks at establishing a task force to study replacing the state gas tax with a mileage tax. Let's stop that "task force" in its tracks right now and save ourselves a lot of time. This bill moves us one step closer to applying this mileage tax to passenger vehicles, transforming travel by car into a privilege of the wealthy and painful for the average taxpayer. I moved here from uber-liberal California, where they are looking to replace a gas tax, because they are looking to end all fossil fuel consumption in the state. We are Texans, and fossil fuels power our amazing Texas economy. We have no need to replace the gas tax with a mileage tax. To all the Republicans on the Committee, may I remind you of Plank #63 on the Republican Party platform, which OPPOSES a mileage tax. If you want to run as a Republican, we expect you to govern like one. I urge all members of the Committee to reject this first step towards a mileage tax. Such a tax would be regressive, and hurt your most financially vulnerable constituents. Remember, these are the people you are supposed to represent. Do the right thing and reject this bad bill. Texans deserve better!

David Nash

Self - Retired

Harper, TX

I'm wholeheartedly against HB 3418 related to a Texas vehicle mileage tax in lieu of motor fuel taxes in accordance with the GOP Platform plank #63. This would play out badly if enacted for all motorized vehicles assuming the current technology of obtaining mileage data would be through the state inspections where odometer readings are recorded. I foresee there would be a spike of Texans willing to chance not getting their vehicles registrations renewed to avoid the mileage tax whereas you can't avoid the usage tax at the gas pump or charging stations. This would lead to an increase of accidents due to unsafe vehicles on Texas highways and many other downstream effects for law enforcement, medical entities, ect. I hate to think of the consequences when (if not now) technology monitors motorized vehicle mileage with AI.

Bonnie Wallace

self; retired

LLANO, TX

I OPPOSE this bill because it begins a slippery slope of a mileage tax on citizens. Vote NO!!!

Sheryl Hazelwood

Self

Tyler, TX

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! We have a state mileage tax already. It's called the gasoline tax. Those who drive a bunch of miles buy more gas. Those who drive fewer miles or have fuel efficient vehicles pay less tax. Leave this alone.

Wilma Joy Putnam

SELF

Georgetown, TX

I OPPOSE THIS BILL BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT IS THE FIRST STEP IN IMPOSING A STATE MILEAGE TAX ON EVERY MILE WE DRIVE and thereby supports the Left's goal to discourage the use of private transportation vehicles.

Roger Hall
self - designer
Ingram, TX

I OPPOSE this bill - NO state mileage tax - no temporary study that only grows into a huge money such from the taxpayers.

Tracy Knudsen
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

OPPOSE

Jesse Gomez Jr., M.D.
self
Harlingen, TX

This borders on Communism. State mandated mileage fees ! I have already gone to riding a bicycle to avoid all the ridiculous gasoline prices. Now fees for mileage is even more drastic for those who drive. You Democrats are pushing yourselves into the abyss of ineligibility for our votes. You have already ruined our economy, food supply, immigration policies and now you add to the bowl of reasons for normal sane people to abandon your party and to vote for any one else but Democrats. STOP TAXING AND SPENDING and WASTING OUR MONEY !!.. We do NOT want to live in a socialist state ruled by Democrats !

Doak Dunkin
North Cameron County Republican Club
Harlingen, TX

I live in the Valley and travel to College Station to visit my mother monthly. A mileage fee would be very costly. Gasoline is costly enough. I am not in favor of any mileage fee.

Robert Wilson
Taxpayer and concerned citizen
Tyler, TX

Please oppose HB 3418. We have enough toll fees. We do not want additional tolls on every mile we drive. We all know pilot/temp programs never go away so do not start administering the cancer. We oppose public-private partnerships, specifically regarding toll projects and we oppose conversion of existing roads or lanes to toll roads which means if this bill passes, it turns every road into a toll road. We oppose the use of taxpayer money to subsidize any toll projects, and we call upon lawmakers to adequately fund our highways without hidden taxes, tolls, or raiding of emergency funds. This is a new toll tax and we do not need it. Please stop HB 3418 from getting out of committee. Kill HB 3418.

Dana McAuliffe
self/retired
San Marcos, TX

I oppose HB 3418 which would authorize a pilot program whose final aim will be to replace the state gas tax with a mileage tax, applied to all vehicles. A gas tax allows the individual user to budget their gas use - giving control to the people. A mileage tax would necessarily mean "tracking" individuals. Shades of '1984'.

PATRICIA BARRETT
CCDF- Harris Co
HOUSTON, TX

Yet another bad bill submitted by Canales. This is basically a toll tax for every mile we drive! While the pilot program would be for commercial trucks, the bill establishes a 'task force' to study replacing the state gas tax. Canales seeks funding for the pilot from Biden's infrastructure bill that Texans have resoundingly rejected. The GOP Platform has a plank opposing a mileage tax (plank #63).

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair

(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)

CISCO, TX

We oppose HB 3418. We do not support a mileage tax on commercial vehicles, nor on private cars and trucks. Let's not impose one under a "pilot program" or study how to impose one more broadly at some future date.

Please vote "No" on HB 3418.

Jaclyn Hall

self

Kerrville, TX

Oppose HB 3418. We all know there's nothing more permanent than a "temporary govt program / pilot program." I hope you understand the financial burden already weighing down every Texan. You seriously want to charge us a tax by mile too??

Kelley Rumps

self retired

The Woodlands, TX

I oppose this bill.

Connie Vignes

Self

Orange, TX

Please vote no on this bill

Tim Kane

self, retired

Tyler, TX

Let me get this straight, Texas has a huge surplus from which to finance important services and this bill proposes to impose a new tax on drivers!

Get real.

Mark Russell

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 3418. I strongly oppose HB 3418 because this bill represents an overreach of governmental authority and an invasion of privacy. In the near term, implementing a pilot program for a user fee mileage tax on commercial trucking will further increase the costs of a wide range of goods and services in a current period of already high inflation and economic downturn. In the long term, I strongly oppose a mileage tax/user fee, and therefore oppose any task force established toward that end.

Thank you.

Jena Russell, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 3418. I strongly oppose HB 3418 because this bill represents an overreach of governmental authority and an invasion of privacy. In the near term, implementing a pilot program for a user fee mileage tax on commercial trucking will further increase the costs of a wide range of goods and services in a current period of already high inflation and economic downturn. In the long term, I strongly oppose a mileage tax/user fee, and therefore oppose any task force established toward that end.

Thank you.

Darrell Forster

Dairy Queen Of Tyler

Tyler, TX

I'm opposed to the bill.

Don Mobbs

Self

Tyler, TX

Dear Transportation Committee Members: I am asking and URGING the Members to OPPOSE HB 3418. This is the 1st Step in a Milage Tax on every single Texan. This Bill wants to introduce a mileage tax on commercial transportation first, but we all know where that would go next personal cars. Texans Overwhelming Rejected Biden's Infrastructure Bill that would take funds to pay for studies on this proposed mileage tax. (PLANK #63). This is a BAD, Unnecessary Bill. WE DO NOT WANT A MILEAGE TAX on Commercial Use or Personal Use Cars, Trucks, etc. We do not need a pilot program or study-Please VOTE NO! Thank You.

Magdalen Marbry

Self

Houston, TX

Opposed to Bill: This not in the interest of Texans or our Country. A Law to Tax you to Drive????? Ultimately resulting in preventing one from driving. History of Such Bill/Laws is never Temporary.
This Bill should have never got out of Committee.

Lars Kuslich

self

Dayton, TX

This bill must be rejected. The very nature of this program is intrusive because it necessitates tracking how often and how much someone drives. The fact that such information will be tied to a tax can only mean that this bill is an attack on people who use private vehicles. This is blatant manipulation of what should be our choice in order to coerce people into specific behavior. Stop it.

Beth Maynard

Self

Cisco, TX

I am opposed to HB 3418. The GOP Platform has a plank opposing a mileage tax (plank #63) which shows that most Republicans are opposed to it. I'm confident that most Texans are also opposed to a mileage tax. Texas is a big state and this could be a burden for those who have to drive great distances for their livelihood. Please do not pass this bill out of Committee.

John Bishop
self
Houston, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3418. A mileage tax on commercial trucks or private vehicles is open ended in its rates and will only raise the cost of living for all Texans. You can find an alternative for collecting energy taxes for road construction from EVs equivalent to fuel taxes.

Jose Silvester
Self
San Antonio, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3418 because the Pilot program to add a mileage tax for drivers is due to the war on private transportation by hypocrite self-appointed Globalists, who have decided they rule the world and only they can travel, while the peasants around the globe cannot. This Bill makes plain that some in the political apparatus in the Texas legislature agree.

Kris Denlinger
self/homemaker
Cedar Hill, TX

Please oppose this bill. We already pay a vehicle sales tax as well as a gas tax. That is enough. We do not need to follow the green agenda or allow government to use taxes as a way of changing citizen behavior. Vote NO

Carolyn McClugage
Self- precinct chair 263
Leander, TX

Oppose!

Charlene kuprel'
True Texas Project RGV
Laguna Vista, TX

High inflation and high gas prices and you want to tax every mile we drive. Forget this terrible idea.

Sally Fiveash
Self
Carrollton, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3418. The state should not be allowed to impose a state mileage tax. There should be no task force to study this or pilot program to study this and the state should not do anything to go down this road. No funding for such studies should be supported.

Teresa McCollum
self- retired
Borger, TX

I oppose implementation of a mileage tax over the current tax. I expect our legislature to remedy the electric vehicle question in an equitable manner without subjecting all Texans to more government regulations and oversight, for example, the legislature in Wyoming enacted a \$200 annual fee in 2019 according to the NCSL, (National Conference of State Legislators).The legislative priority should always limit government regulations and surveillance. I

Kim Roland
Self/ Retired
Lockhart, TX

I OPPOSE this bill.

James Ransdell
Self
Seguin, TX

We don't need a toll tax for every mile we drive. Vote NO. We don't want money from Biden's infrastructure bill.

Doug Smith, RVP Moving & Storage
The Suddath Companies (Daryl Flood Texas)
Coppell, TX

Opposed on the VMT Tax

Alejandro Suescun, CFO
Pulido Transport LP
HOUSTON, TX

As a small trucking company, we are opposed to the VMT. This would add additional cost in a difficult economic environment where we are facing increasing expenses.

David Musgraves
E.L. Farmer
Midland, TX

I am against this bill. This VMT focused only on Trucks is burdensome for an already overtaxed industry. We already pay Fuel Tax, Heavy Highway Use tax. If the VMT is going to replace the fuel tax, then its needs to include all vehicles using the roadways. Passenger cars far outnumber Trucks.

Angela Smith
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am AGAINST this bill. Honestly, why would a Texan think that it is OK to potentially (and probably) impose a mileage tax on his fellow Texans? The Texas GOP plank #63 opposes such a tax, so I implore a vote against this 'pilot program' to make sure that it does not make it out of committee.

John Porche
Dorado Oil Company
Corpus Christi, TX

- Attempts at VMT taxes in other states have proven costly to administer and difficult to comply with.
- Independent studies show massive evasion, proven to penalize honest companies by subsidizing those who do not comply.
- To date, the integration of technology and enforcement have continued to challenge states who have attempted VMT taxes.
- Privacy issues related to VMT taxes have not been resolved.
- Solving the future of funding our highway infrastructure on the backs of the trucking industry through a new tax can prove to be costly and impact a delicate supply chain. True reform should start with all users and – in particular, those who are most likely to use alternative fuels.
- All users of highways should be inclusive of any plans to adequately fund our highways. Encourage all users of commercial motor vehicles to carefully consider the consequences a new VMT tax would have on their companies

Michael McDonald, Vice President - Risk Management

AXion Logistics, LLC

Pasadena, TX

The basis of this bill is to evaluate if a VMT could/should replace the current fuel tax program. However, there has been no study to suggest that the current fuel tax system is in any way deficient or in need of being replaced. HB 3418 is cart before the horse.

We oppose this bill.

TYLER BARRAS

UTILITY TRAILER SALES SE TX INC

HOUSTON, TX

I would like to strictly oppose this bill. A VMT that is only focused on motor carriers or the transportation industry is a unfair representation of the total vehicles that are on the roads. Trucks only make up a small percentage of vehicles when compared to the the everyday drivers. Also the logistics of collecting and measuring the VMT is unrealistic and overly burdensome. How to you account for the trucks that only pass through Texas and other instances that the collection is not straight forward?

The Transportation industry is the backbone of this country transporting over 80% of the goods consumers need. This will only burden an already burdened industry and put hard working men and women out of business. You want to be fair. Increase fuel tax at the pump for all. We all drive and share the roads...not just one segment of workers.

Tucker Briscoe

Texas Moving

Pflugerville, TX

A study is not needed to confirm the failures a VMT has already produced in multiple other states.

Don Dovie

Gulf Intermodal Services, LLC

Houston, TX

I am in opposition of House Bill 3418. This will create another bureaucracy, add additional costs to the trucker and trucking industry along with unnecessary additional burdens to the trucking industry including owner-operators, and the trucking companies. Worse and depending on the amounts charged, it will make Texas truckers/businesses non-competitive since non-Texas truckers would not be subject to these additional costs/burdens. Stop trying to emulate California style onerous regulations on the Texas trucking industry which will drive up costs and burdens for everyone involved through to the consumer.

John Craddock
TXTA and Craddock Moving & Storage
Fort Worth, TX

To the Transportation Committee,

I am writing this to oppose HB 3418. I will keep this simple because I know your time is valuable. but VMT's have proven to be an ineffective way to tax in other states. It is far costlier to regulate, and much easier to evade. Why would we want to have taxes that promote more cost and bring in less revenue? That simply doesn't make any sense.

Placing this burden on the back of the an already fragile supply chain will end up doing several things that are negative. First off, it will hurt honest companies and subsidize dishonest companies. Second, this cost will likely pass down to the consumer because companies will have to increase rates for transportation. Right now people are struggling with inflation and the prices of food and home goods are incredibly high as it is. If this cost gets passed to the consumer, it will only hurt Texans. Third, it will very likely pass down to the truck drivers in many companies since the majority of drivers are independent contractors. We already have a massive driver shortage in this country at this time, so placing more stressors on these drivers will exacerbate this problem which will hurt the supply chain even more.

We at TXTA fully support the fuel tax because it is inclusive of all users of our highways. The trucking industry already pays for most of the fuel tax is incurred in this state and will be happy to continue to do so through this medium. I appreciate your time reading this.

Thanks,

John Craddock

David Price
United Petroleum Transports
Houston, TX

This bill and subsequent study are a waste of time and taxpayer money. Trucking companies are already overtaxed as it is, and adding an additional tax that requires much more administrative oversight than the current fuel tax will be a failure, as it has been in other states who are on the bleeding edge of this approach. The average size of trucking companies are less than 10 trucks in our state and they simply do not have the excess capital to invest in technology in their trucks to comply with this tax, and therefore will create opportunities to evade the accurate accounting of traveled miles. As mentioned before, the current fuel tax is taken at the rack and the pump, making it almost impossible to evade with minimal administrative cost to ensure accuracy. I'm no fan of this study but if it must go through then make it for all vehicles on the road, not just trucks. The easier solution would be to increase the fuel tax rather than add another type of tax. And again, increase the fuel tax on every fuel purchase, not just truck diesel.

Danny Timmons
Self , retired truck driver
Livingston, TX

Vote no, it is unfair to place this entire tax liability on 1 industry. Every person who drives on our roads should pay their fair share

Gary Nelson
Indiana Transport
TRINIDAD, TX

Do NOT tax commercial or non commercial vehicles in the state of Texas.

Brent Nickerson
BBMC Trucking LLC
Dickinson, TX

The problem is would be that if you charged truckers more who do you think is going to pay for it . The cost would ultimately be borne to the consumer. I have an idea, instead of raising more taxes how about we quit giving so much away to everyone and quit living beyond our means.

Dan POWERS
Self
Brownfield, TX

Everyone should pay the gas tax. It is unfair to target a group such as truckers when everyone benefits from their work. It's like property taxes which target responsible property owners instead of using a sales tax where everyone has the opportunity to contribute. this bill is unfair and must be defeated

Jason Phillips, VP
Top Flight Trucking
Houston, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. This is a unfair and unnecessary tax proposal aiming to burden the backbone industry of America.

Jlynn Wells
TXTA & Wallport Transit
Ft. Worth, TX

I am opposed to an additional Vehicle Miles Travel Tax. The trucking community already pay into a fund at the fuel pump. Adding more on top will put a lot of owner-operators out of business and the Trucking Companies they work for will suffer as well. Putting a strain on the Supply Chain when freight can't move in a timely manner.

Russell Jurk, VP
Bobby Lehmann Inc
Giddings, TX

Members of the Committee

The Trucking Industry strongly opposes a VMT. Any tax that unfairly burdens a segment of industry is wrong from the start. I believe a study, if done correctly, would show the implementation would be impossible to monitor, and only legitimate companies would pay. Paying at the pump works very well and users pay proportionately Including passenger vehicles, EV's should pay their fair share by registration fee In states where VMTs have been enacted, there are problems with implementation and monitoring.

I oppose a VMT in any form for Texas.
Russell Jurk

Leovijildo Aleman, Texas Resident
Truck driver / self
Houston, TX

Are we not taxed enough already???? We can barely pay the taxes we owe now. I'm paying taxes to so many different entities, I don't even know which way is up anymore! I get taxed on my work expenses, I get taxed on my earnings, I get taxed again when I spend my earnings, I pay property taxes not only for my self, I also have to pay property taxes for my truck, that is not even legally allowed on my property! I have payment installations year round for my taxes, and you people are trying to find even more way to tax us?? Enough already!!

Amy Seymour
Self - National Director of Driver Retention
Seabrook, TX

My opposition to HB 3418 is due to it being a truck-only tax which singles out trucker drivers, owners, and motor carriers for the purposes of filling the state's infrastructure needs. A truck-only tax will only place a disproportionate burden onto truck drivers and owners. Understandably the state's infrastructure needs are large, we must consider alternate means than taxation to trucks only.

In a time where driver shortages exist and drivers over the last few years have worked as essential workers to continue to keep us fed and clothed during the pandemic, if we were to place this truck-only tax to them would be unreasonable. Truck drivers, like doctors and nurses, are and have always been essential workers to our state and our nation. We need to start treating them that way. We need to help turn hard jobs into challenging and meaningful careers that secure truck drivers a place in the middle class. Just as the truck driver retention problem built up over decades, solving it will be a years-long effort, but further adding taxation to this already lower paid career will only hinder the progress that is already being made.

For drivers, who face long, stressful, hours away from home - and for the hundred of millions of people who rely on the goods that those drivers are safely hauling to us - do not add the additional burden of truck-only taxation.

Kristin Hernandez
Self, wife of a Texas Trucker
San Antonio, TX

Please consider the taxes already paid by professional truck drivers. This is not the way to dig into the pockets of hard working owner operators of this state.

Shanne Brown, Owner
Self/trucking industry
Ben wheeler, TX

As if truckers don't pay enough taxes as it is. As a property owner and Native Texan if y'all keep trying to make Texas into California that's what you'll get. Rates are down, brokers are stealing, everything truck related is higher and higher by the day yet rates are paying 1993 wages. Not to mention the raping we take as property owners already with taxes on that. It's ridiculous. If your answer is always tax tax tax where does it end? TEXANS MOVING OUT OF THE STATE.

JAMES MATTHEWS
Rafter77 INC
Lockhart, TX

Absolutely not. Trucking should not be singled out for more cost. We already pay extra tolls, fuel tax, road tax, permit fees, etc.

Eugene Junker, Mr
Self
Midland, TX

I oppose this. Vote NO

Susan Lucas
Self- retired
Bryan, TX

Please vote NO !!!!!,on HB3418

Maria D
Self
Pearland, TX

Homeland security- digital licenses AND mileage user fee pilot program. As a Texan, I'm urging you all to vote in opposition of this bill. This is a globalist agenda and we (Texans) are not in favor of anything digitally tracking us or the use of anything digital to add to this global agenda. We placed you all in office to represent us and voting in favor of this would not be reflective of your constituents and/or their desires. Vote no!!!

Brent Metcalf
Steel Horse
Pasadena, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to a new Vehicle Miles Tax, especially commercial motor vehicles. I am OPPOSED for the following reasons...(1) Any revenues needed could be collected from the any number of already established tax methods such as Federal 2290, IFTA, UCR, and apportioned registration. Not to mention the monies paid for state Ad Volverum business personal property tax we pay on each and every single unit we own whether we operate it on the roads or not! (2) Adding a new revenue stream from taxes collected just introduced another way to hide money fraudulently and waste it. (3) If a new VMT is necessary, then it should apply to all vehicles, not just commercial vehicles. (4) why do we need a new tax? What happened to that \$30 million surplus? I thought we were going to tax less and spend more wisely! No new taxes for vehicles or otherwise! Use the money you have already and be better spenders! The answer is not always a new tax or tax more. Saving money is a great idea too! Show me a bill that saves money and I may be in favor of it! Otherwise, no NEW TAXES!

Jake Wilkinson
M&W Real Estate/Self
Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill would significantly increase costs to trucking companies which would translate to higher costs to every consumer. This would also cause numerous job losses and a slowdown in the supply chain which is still hurting by the economic shutdowns imposed during Covid.

James Rowland
Self truck driver
Midland, TX

No more taxes. Please. Truck drivers pay enough taxes. We are already struggling. And this would not be fair.

Arthur Meyer
VoidForm Products LLC
Fort Worth, TX

As a Corporate Fleet Manager who handles our trucks and all taxes and regulations, i strongly oppose any type of mileage tax in Texas now as we either pay it directly when we buy our fuel or through our IFTA agreement that has worked for years effectively.

Adem Neziri
Baca Transport LLC
Nolanville, TX

This Bill is very unfair to Truck owners and drivers. All vehicles use Texas roads not only trucks. This is very disappointing.

Melinda Daniel
Rusty Daniel Trucking Inc
Sulphur Springs, TX

VPM tax is a terrible idea for Texas residents. Are you going to drop the state tax? How are you going to govern that? How are you going to differentiate between a personal vehicle and commercial at the pump? Commercial carriers travers Texas roadways thousands of miles pre month. There are some weeks that my trucks never leave the state, one truck may travel 2500 that week. That will put carriers out of business. Even at \$.1 VPM it would have a 50% increase over the \$.20 per gallon rate. These cost will be passed along to the consumer causing farther economic strain on Texas residents. Texas residents can not afford this bill to be passed. Please do not pass HB 3418.

Holly Junker
Self
Midland, TX

I oppose this bill

David Tripp, President
A Better Tripp Moving & Storage Co., Inc
Houston, TX

Adding more tax on to struggling businesses is not the thing to do with Covid getting through that with the housing market that is down moving and storage cannot afford to have new taxes implemented on top of all the other taxes that are being paid now it is simply wrong thing to do

Sherry Eller
Self
Temple, TX

I oppose HB 3418. This is the first step toward imposing a state mileage tax on every mile we drive, which equates to basically a toll on every mile we drive! The task force will study replacing the gas tax with a mileage tax, which would apply to all cars. The GOP Plank 63 states that we oppose a mileage tax. Please do not pass this bill out of committee.

Stacy Elms
Housley Group
Carrollton, TX

My name is Stacy Elms, and I am Vice President, Risk Management for Housley Group. Housley is a 43 year old utility contractor, headquartered in San Angelo. We operate more than 200 regulated and unregulated vehicles in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. We respectfully oppose HB 3418 by Chairman Canales for several reasons. The bill authorizes the study of 300 regulated commercial vehicles to provide data for a potential VMT tax. This number is miniscule given the number of not only regulated commercial vehicles but unregulated vehicles and private cars and trucks. Given this number, the data will not provide any clear path to understanding the feasibility of a VMT. The State of Texas studied a VMT a number of years ago and rejected it. Several states have studied or are currently considering a VMT. That data is readily available and could be used to determine feasibility of a VMT in Texas without the significant cost to taxpayers.

Several states that implemented a VMT have discovered the significant flaws of VMT. It requires an enormous bureaucracy to collect the tax while a motor fuels tax is easily collected and is efficient. There is also significant evasion collecting VMT tax. In New Mexico, the estimate of evasion is as high as 43 percent. In New York the estimate is as high as 50 percent. Oregon has a low evasion rate of approximately 7 percent. Therefore, taxpayers have an inefficient system that costs more to operate and collects less in tax.

We agree that all users of our roads should pay for that privilege, and that increasing numbers of zero emission vehicles should pay their share. The process should be simple. Increase registration fees for electric, hybrid, hydrogen and other zero emission vehicles. The fee could be based on the value of the vehicle or the city of residence of the owner. Texans will be using motor fuels for decades. There is no hurry to implement a system that is inefficient, penalizes vast numbers of vehicle users and provides less income to build and maintain our network of highways.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose House Bill 3418.

Maria Hernandez
Terrier Transportation. Logistics
Houston, TX

Strongly oppose the bill. Taxes are already paid on gas taxes, the trucking industry is already hurting in this unfavorable economy.

Richard Kelley, Dr
Self retired scientist
Palestine, TX

I oppose HB 3418. The bill sets the first steps to impose a state mileage tax on every mile we drive.

Joseph Pearson, Mr
Joe
Porter, TX

I completely opposed to Tax per mile for any vehicle including semi trucks and trucking companies. We pay fuel tax which is supposed to pay for the roads, stop stealing from the road tax and use that money. The added costs will be passed on to consumers of the products we haul. The trucking industry can't absorb anymore added costs to operate. If you want to raise fuel tax by all means do that.

Lynda Joan Somma

SELF

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3418 because once again Agenda 21/2030 is trying to get its nose under the tent with this bill because this is a United Nations objective NOT what people in the state of Texas have dreamed up as good for themselves. Texans do not need to be charged a mileage tax for every mile they travel! That's simply a way to CONTROL PEOPLE. I do not want globalist ideas imposed here nor would Texans if they see this UN/World Economic Forum ploy. Also, there is no need for another "study." That is simply a way of spending millions of Texas tax payer dollars until Texans can be soft-soaked into finally relenting to look at what all those wasted dollars have produced. This bill needs to be KILLED in committee! I would also request that the House committee members give their respectful attention to those who testify for and against the position of any one of the House members' positions. Know it or not - giving attention to or refusing to attend to testimony - that in itself is a form of a "king's" control - a technique taught to those who weren't born in the palace. It is so interesting that all of this is recorded on video and attitudes show!