



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 22, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

**JONATHAN HECHT**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**  
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Secretary Stephanie Pollack  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Secretary Pollack,

I write to you today to request that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) amend the regulations that currently prohibit hydrogen fuel cell vehicles from traveling through tunnels and over bridges in Massachusetts.

Transitioning our transportation sector away from greenhouse gas emitting fuels is one of the biggest challenges we face as a state. To address it, we need to give drivers a variety of carbon-free transportation options that fit their lifestyles and preferences. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are an important complement to battery electric vehicles, particularly for those without off-street parking for overnight charging or convenient access to public or workplace charging stations. They drive just like traditional gas-powered vehicles, have comparable ranges, and fill up in a matter of minutes. They also meet or exceed all U.S. and global automotive safety standards and pose no increased risk to our infrastructure or other road users. Over 6,000 hydrogen fuel cell passenger vehicles are already on the road in California.

Automakers are ready to begin expanding the market for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles into the Northeast. They are building out a network of refilling stations, particularly along the Boston to New York corridor. Two stations are now operational in Massachusetts, one in Braintree and the other in Mansfield. Additionally, the Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOR-EV) program has preapproved 3 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (the Honda Clarity, the Toyota Mirai and the Hyundai Tuscon) for rebates of \$1,500. However, it's hard to imagine anyone in Massachusetts buying a hydrogen fuel cell car as long as regulations prohibit them from the state's tunnels and bridges.

I respectfully urge MassDOT to move expeditiously to lift these travel restrictions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hecht".

Jonathan Hecht  
State Representative  
29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex