

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



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May 13, 2021

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,  
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 6, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1287 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to preparedness for a zero emissions transportation future.”

Section 6 of the bill ties a very important goal of electrifying our transportation sector to the implementation of a road usage charge program. Transportation is our state’s greatest source of carbon emissions and we cannot afford to link an important goal like getting to 100% zero-emission vehicles to a separate policy that will take time to design and implement.

I am committed to getting to zero emission transportation as quickly as possible. In fact, Washington is leading the way by building electric vehicle charging infrastructure, procuring zero-emission transit vehicles and building electric ferries, providing financial incentives for electric vehicle purchases, and advocating for a national 100% zero-emission vehicle standard by 2035.

I am also open to exploring the potential of a road usage charge program as part of a larger transportation revenue discussion. I look forward to working with legislators and stakeholders to figure out how to design a road usage charge that ensures the privacy of drivers, helps meet our zero-emission transportation goals, and ensures low-income and overburdened communities are not doubly penalized after already suffering through longer commutes.

Yet setting and achieving a goal of 100% electric vehicles is too important to tie to the implementation of a separate policy like the road usage charge.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 6 of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1287.

With the exception of Section 6, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1287 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jay Inslee  
Governor