Dear PAOLMA Board,

You may hear in the coming days that SB 686 passes both houses of the General Assembly in Harrisburg. Ultimately, it will be signed by the Governor if passed by the General Assembly.

You will recall that SB 656 was introduced by Senator Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) to establish a registration process for electric vehicles EV) in order to capture some of the revenue stream lost in the liquid fuels tax because EV users will not pay gas tax despite using our transportation infrastructure in PA.

This bill has been negotiated and the leadership of the House and Senate, with the Governor's blessing, are expected to run it as amended before the end of this week. I have yet to see amendment language but the parties apparently compromised on numbers wherein EV's will register at a fee of $200 in year #1, $250 in year #2 and then the fee will increase according to the CPI each year thereafter.

Of importance to OLMs is the attached letter from PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. As you will recall, PAOLMA has educated policymakers this past year that if an EV registration process was enacted, OLM's should be included and allowed to issue all the paperwork developed and necessary in the process. Those details are a long way from being decided, and PAOLMA will want to work with the chairmen of the respective transportation committees in the General Assembly, and with PennDOT, in the coming months to define those details.

Ultimately, PennDOT was unwilling to codify the role of the OLMs in the agreed upon language of SB 656. The Secretary agreed to the attached letter. This letter is very positive in the fact that the current governance at PennDOT has committed and plans to include OLMs in the registration of EVs (details to be worked out). You would be correct to ask if this binds future PennDOT administrations to this current commitment. I would suggest it does not and that PAOLMA will want to continue working with the General Assembly to codify such language in the coming months. Certain legislative leaders have committed to that effort going forward.

This is a very positive development and I hope all OLMs across the Commonwealth will recognize and appreciate that PAOLMA and your Board of Directors began this initiative and worked tirelessly to secure the right to process an added dimension of the driver and vehicle services offered to the PA motoring public by PennDOT and your stores—in this case, particularly PA EV owners.

Please feel free to share this information with members and contact me if you have any questions or concerns about it.

OS-2C (2-22)

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

July 9, 2024

Hon. Wayne Langerholc Jr.
Senate Box 203035
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3035
Room: 281 Main Capitol

Hon. Ed Neilson
127 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202174
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2174

Hon. Marty Flynn
Senate Box 203022
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3022
Room: 184 Main Capitol

Hon. Kerry A. Benninghoff
213 Ryan Office Building
P.O. Box 202171
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2171

Dear Chairs Langerholc, Flynn, Neilson, and Benninghoff:

This correspondence confirms that Online Messengers (OLMs) under contract with PennDOT to provide consumer services such as the issuance of vehicle registrations are currently authorized and will continue to be authorized to collect and remit registration fees to PennDOT, including electric vehicle (EV) registration fees (once authorized), that may be assessed on an annual basis.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Carroll, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation