# New York lawmakers move to shut down Tesla dealerships amid political backlash against Elon Musk



New York State lawmakers have turned against Elon Musk, introducing legislation aiming to shut down his five Tesla dealerships in the state. This development marks a notable reversal in the position of New York Democrats, who previously supported Musk and his electric vehicles as a means to advance environmental goals.

New York State Senator Patricia Fahy, who once championed Musk’s efforts to open brick-and-mortar Tesla dealerships to boost electric vehicle (EV) sales, is now spearheading a bill that would revoke Tesla’s state dealership licences. Fahy criticised Musk’s current affiliations and actions, particularly his work involving the cryptocurrency Dogecoin (DOGE) and his ties to the Trump administration. She told the Daily Mail, “No matter what we do, we've got to take this from Elon Musk,” adding that Musk was “part of an effort to go backwards.”

Fahy, who had previously supported Tesla’s presence in New York, backed a waiver that allowed Tesla to operate physical dealerships, arguing that this presence would promote cleaner energy and reduce emissions in line with liberal environmental priorities. Her stance had contributed to Tesla receiving a highly advantageous lease in Buffalo—a $1-a-year arrangement estimated to be worth around $1 billion. However, an audit of that deal has raised the prospect that New York could seek to reclaim that subsidy.

The new bill proposes redistributing Tesla’s licences to other EV manufacturers such as Rivian, Scout Motors, and Lucid Motors, seeking to end Tesla’s current dominance in the state’s electric vehicle market. “The bottom line is, Tesla has lost their right to promote these when they're part of an administration that wants to go backwards,” Fahy said, referencing federal policies that have scaled back funding for EV infrastructure and renewable energy initiatives. “Elon Musk was handed a privilege here.... Why should we give them a monopoly?” Fahy added.

The Daily Mail reported that Musk responded to the bill with a message on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), describing it as “improper for lawmakers to target a single person or company.” New York Governor Kathy Hochul has indicated she might consider signing the bill should it successfully pass both chambers of the state legislature.

Musk’s association with the Trump administration and focus on DOGE have raised concerns among Tesla investors and customers. His political shift has alienated many progressive and centrist consumers who had previously embraced the Tesla brand. The impact is evident in the company’s financial results: Tesla’s first-quarter profits fell by 71 percent, from $1.4 billion last year to $409 million this year, reflecting challenges in the brand’s reputation and market position.

In response to these tensions, supporters of Tesla have staged protests worldwide, targeting dealerships and vehicles. In New York, demonstrators took part in a "Tesla Takedown" protest near one of Musk’s dealerships in March. Other protests have escalated to acts of vandalism, including firebombings and shootings at Tesla showrooms, vehicle lots, and charging stations. Two Teslas seen at a parking lot in Las Vegas were previously set ablaze in a similar incident.

Former President Donald Trump publicly condemned the attacks on Tesla assets, categorising them as "domestic terrorism" and threatening harsh penalties, including imprisonment or deportation for those responsible. On his social media platform TruthSocial, Trump declared, "I look forward to watching the sick terrorist thugs get 20 year jail sentences for what they are doing to Elon Musk and Tesla." He suggested offenders might serve time in El Salvador’s well-known high-security prisons, which have recently gained international attention.

Further unrest has emerged online, where hackers have targeted Tesla owners in the US by publishing an interactive map that reveals their names, addresses, contact numbers, and emails. The website uses a Molotov cocktail cursor, indicating a hostile intent by those behind the doxxing campaign.

Despite the setbacks, Tesla’s stock saw a notable rebound after Musk announced plans to devote more time to the company starting in May. Speaking during Tesla’s first-quarter earnings call, Musk stated, “Starting next month, I will be allocating far more of my time to Tesla,” noting that the "major work of establishing the Department of Government Efficiency" was completed. He added that he would continue to spend a day or two a week on government-related matters as long as it remains useful and requested by the president. Following this announcement, Tesla’s share price rose by 20%, closing at $284.96 per share.

The Daily Mail’s reporting highlights the increasing pressures facing Elon Musk and Tesla as political, financial, and social dynamics converge to challenge his business operations and personal brand in New York and beyond.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.teslarati.com/ny-democrats-take-aim-tesla-direct-sales-licenses-new-york/> - This article supports the claim that New York lawmakers, led by Senator Patricia Fahy, are working to revoke Tesla's direct sales licenses in the state, aiming to restrict its operations.
2. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/new-york-moves-to-shutter-tesla-dealerships-in-blow-to-musk/> - The article details Senator Fahy's sudden change in stance against Tesla, motivated by Elon Musk's affiliations and actions, and the proposed legislation to remove Tesla's dealerships in favor of other EV manufacturers.
3. <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/26/new-york-lawmakers-target-tesla-00252361> - This article reports on the introduction of a bill targeting Tesla's direct sales model in New York, reflecting a shift in political support following Elon Musk's recent actions.
4. <https://www.teslarati.com/tesla-new-york-store-ban-legislation/> - The article discusses the legislation aimed at revoking Tesla’s store permits, explaining it as an effort to promote market competition by allowing other manufacturers to enter the New York EV market.
5. <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2025/brad-hoylman-sigal/senator-hoylman-sigal-and-assemblymember-lasher> - While not directly addressing the Tesla issue, this press release from the NY Senate highlights legislative concerns about company performance and job creation, which is relevant to broader scrutiny of Tesla's operations.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original article highlighting the political and financial pressures Elon Musk and Tesla are facing, including the legislative actions in New York.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14653709/New-York-close-five-tesla-dealerships-musk-trump.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data