

March 31, 2023

Minnesota House of Representatives
Transportation Finance and Policy
MN State Capitol, Rm 120
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 2887 – House Transportation Omnibus Bill: transmission right of way & NEVI program

Dear Chair Hornstein, Rep. Petersburg, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of HF2887, specifically the inclusion of Rep. Koegel's bill HF2570, which allows for a streamlined process for use of the existing right of way for the construction of certain transmission lines. Constrained transmission lines and the time and cost to acquire land, permit, and build new ones are some of the biggest obstacles to the clean energy transition. Streamlining this process by clarifying the use of existing transportation right of ways for the building of transmission infrastructure is low-hanging fruit in making it easier to site these projects.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Rep. Koegel for authoring this provision and Chair Hornstein and the committee for including it in the omnibus. By making it easier to site transmission lines, Minnesota will be a more attractive place to build renewable energy projects and help our state reach its goal of decarbonizing our economy by 2050.

We also wholeheartedly support the creation of an electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure program in order to implement the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The NEVI Program represents an unprecedented opportunity to advance the EV industry, expand the fast-charging EV network statewide, and is critical to easing range anxiety, which is key to accelerating the broader adoption of electric vehicles. All of this will help fulfill Clean Transportation goals detailed in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for these provisions in the House Transportation Omnibus bill. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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