



Drive Electric

MINNESOTA

February 28, 2023

Re: Support for House File 1550

Dear Chair Hornstein, Vice Chair Tabke, Republican Lead Petersburg, and members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House File 1550. Drive Electric Minnesota supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) providing needed non-federal matching funds to ensure Minnesotans benefit fully from federal discretionary grant programs. We also support MnDOT's ability to provide technical assistance grants for local units of government and Tribal governments submitting federal grant applications.

Drive Electric Minnesota is a partnership of EV champions—including automakers and auto dealers, electric utilities and cooperatives, local and state government, corporations, and nongovernmental organizations—who are working to accelerate EV adoption in Minnesota. Drive Electric Minnesota is dedicated to encouraging the deployment of EVs and the establishment of EV charging infrastructure through public-private partnerships, financial incentives, education, technical support, and public policy.

We believe EVs are an important component of energy efficiency and cleaner transportation in Minnesota that is both financially and environmentally sustainable. Advancing EV deployment will have many benefits to Minnesotans, including reduced transportation costs, cleaner air, and energy independence. It will also help the state meet its statutory greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Discretionary grants established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide an unprecedented opportunity to invest in Minnesota's infrastructure, including its EV charging network. Building out EV charging stations is critical to reducing range anxiety and accelerating EV adoption in the state. To ensure Minnesota can compete with other states for competitive grants, it is critical to ensure the state can provide non-federal matching fund requirements.

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates this committee's consideration of this important legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Berninger
Public Policy Manager, Transportation & Fuels
Great Plains Institute (facilitator of Drive Electric MN)