



# SIERRA CLUB

## NORTH STAR CHAPTER

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Chair Hornstein and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your support of HF2887.

HF2887 is what the climate crisis demands, what economic justice demands, just what public health demands and what residents of the metro area have long expected of their legislators. In passing this bill you are seizing the moment. Thank you.

Our one concern is related to active transportation. A broad coalition has asked you to **dedicate** 10% of the sales tax revenue to walking and biking. We still do. The current language says that 16% (or  $\frac{1}{6}$ ) **could** be used for transportation, but it is **not dedicated**. It could also be spent on roads, which is funded with other revenue streams.

The success of our expanded transit system depends on people's ability to walk to transit stations. This is particularly important to address in suburban communities where sidewalks are too often entirely missing near current and future transit lines.

We should also reconsider how those active transportation dollars should be governed. As I noted on Transit Equity Day, we will not get equity in public policy, if people are not represented equally in the decision making process. For example, when votes are allocated on a decision-making board by jurisdiction regardless of population, rather than population itself, then people are no longer equal.

Should Carver County be part of our transportation plans? including transit? Of course. But ask a resident of Ramsey county if they consider themselves to be  $\frac{1}{6}$  of a person compared to Carver County? For that matter, is a resident of Hennepin County  $\frac{1}{12}$  of a person? No. Chair Hornstein has correctly made the case that the Met Council as currently structured is not what is needed for governance. Neither is the TAB, which does not represent citizens equally by population.

Please consider this one change and thank you again for an excellent and historic bill.

Peter Wagenius  
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Legislative & Political Director