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February 18, 2022

HF 3220/SF 3137

Dear Members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) is the largest small business organization in Minnesota, with over 10,000 members in every corner of the state. Over 75% of our members have fewer than 10 employees and our mission is to advocate for Main Street businesses.

NFIB writes to share two concerns with House File 3220/Senate File 3137.

First, installing EV charging infrastructure at publicly owned highway rest areas could divert customer traffic away from privately owned service stations and other private facilities which host EV chargers. Private service stations are already facing a monumental shift in their business model and should not be further disadvantaged.

Second, to the extent EV chargers are sited at publicly owned facilities, lawmakers should ensure their use does not result in increased electric charges that will ultimately be borne by taxpayers. Increased demand charges or similar fees related to the consumption of large amounts of electricity by EV chargers should not be assumed by agencies and taxpayers, they should be paid by users of the EV charging facility.

Until more is understood about EV customer charging habits, we urge the Legislature to take a cautious approach to EV charger location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Reynolds".

John L. Reynolds
Minnesota State Director
National Federation of Independent Businesses
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