



April 6, 2022

Dear Chair Hornstein and members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota (Drive Electric MN) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House File 1683. Specifically, Drive Electric MN supports the inclusion of matching funds for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure investment through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and investments in transit bus electrification, and we look forward to the continued discussion about fair and consistent highway funding.

Drive Electric MN 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 MN 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.

Drive Electric Minnesota supports provisions in this bill that provide state funding for EV infrastructure and alternative fuel corridor investments through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program is an unprecedented opportunity to invest in Minnesota's EV charging network, which is critical to reducing range anxiety and accelerating EV adoption. Ensuring the state can secure the required 20% match is the first step to guaranteeing that Minnesotans receive the maximum benefit from the program. In addition, we support allowing installation of EV chargers at safety rest areas, to ensure that all suitable locations for siting chargers can be considered.

Drive Electric MN also supports funding for transit bus electrification. Electric buses benefit communities throughout the state by reducing emissions, improving air quality, and creating jobs. Air quality benefits from electrification are particularly pronounced in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by air pollution, including those with the highest percentage of Black, Indigenous and People of Color, low-income and uninsured residents, and people living with disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, we are looking forward to continuing the discussion about how best to ensure that all drivers contribute fairly to the highway fund. We are pleased to see that this bill includes an opportunity for a thoughtful analysis of a variety of road usage charge options. Drive Electric MN supports comprehensive solutions to roadway funding challenges and the calculation of fair vehicle taxes that consider the higher fuel efficiencies of EVs.

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<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health, "Life and Breath: Twin Cities Metro Area," 2022.

Drive Electric MN appreciates the provisions in this bill that provided needed support for transportation electrification in Minnesota. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

Brendan Jordan  
Vice President, Transportation & Fuels  
Great Plains Institute (facilitator of Drive Electric MN)