



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

February 28, 2023

Chair Klevorn and Members of the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee,

We write today to ask for your support of HF 413 (Stephenson), promoting the use of electric vehicles and ensuring that Minnesotans have reliable access to the future of transportation.

At Conservation Minnesota, our mission is to protect the people and the places that Minnesotans love. Reducing emissions and fighting climate change are central to this goal; and ensuring that Minnesotans are leading and benefiting in this process is vital. Already, this Legislature has taken massive strides toward emissions reductions in the electricity sector with the passage of the 100% Clean Energy Bill. Now, it's time to address Minnesota's largest emitting sector: transportation.

Each year, the transportation sector in Minnesota emits the equivalent over 36 million tons of CO₂. Passenger cars and light-duty trucks make up most of these emissions, combining for the equivalent of roughly 20 million tons of CO₂ as recently as 2020. Around the world, governments and vehicle manufacturers are working together to reduce these numbers by turning to electric vehicles. In 2021, six major automakers and thirty countries pledged to phase out gasoline car sales by 2040, including Ford, GM, Mercedes-Benz, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ghana, Turkey, and even India (the world's fourth-largest vehicle market). Even here in Minnesota, our state has taken concrete steps toward vehicle electrification by adopting low-emission vehicle availability standards through the landmark Clean Cars Minnesota rule.

But as the world moves toward electric vehicles as the dominant form of transportation, we need to ensure that every day Minnesotans aren't being left behind in this transition. Vehicle electrification can and should be affordable, reliable, and easy for vehicle users and auto dealers across state; but we need forward-thinking policies to make this process as efficient as possible.

HF 413 (Stephenson) is a common-sense proposal to accelerate and simplify the transition to electric vehicles in Minnesota. This bill helps make electric vehicles more affordable with accessible rebates. It helps ease burdens on auto dealers by offsetting training and certification costs for electric vehicle sales and maintenance. It helps prepare for higher electric vehicle usership with public utility planning. And it helps demonstrate the effectiveness of electric vehicles through state agency fleets. All of these provisions work to make buying, selling, maintaining, charging, and using an electric vehicle as easy as possible, so that when Minnesotans decide that they want to make the switch, they can do so with confidence.

As the Legislature considers this bill, the world around us is moving toward electric vehicles to cut emissions and long-term transportation costs. So, we have a choice, will we ignore this future and put Minnesotans at a disadvantage? Or will we help Minnesotans step into that future with the resources to succeed? HF 413 puts Minnesota on the front foot in this transition toward vehicle electrification. *We respectfully urge your support.*

Sincerely,

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