



March 31, 2023

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 2887. We applaud this committee's consideration of several important provisions in its omnibus bill that would maximize the benefits to Minnesotans from the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and other federal programs. These federal programs present an unprecedented opportunity to invest in Minnesota's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and the provisions in this bill will ensure the state does not miss out on these investments.

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. 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.

Recent federal legislation will lead to significant investments in transportation electrification. Drive Electric Minnesota supports the following provisions in H.F. 2887 that would ensure the state is able to capitalize on those investments:

- **Match funding for federal grant programs:** Federal funding programs through the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act represent a historic investment in the nation's infrastructure, including its EV charging infrastructure. These investments are needed to reduce range anxiety and accelerate transportation electrification throughout Minnesota. By providing needed non-federal matching funds, the state will ensure it is prepared to compete with other states for this federal funding.
- **The electric vehicle infrastructure program:** The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program is an unprecedented opportunity to invest in Minnesota's EV charging network, which is critical to reducing range anxiety and accelerating EV adoption. Provisions included in this bill to establish a statewide electric vehicle infrastructure program to implement the NEVI program and successor programs, allow the Commissioner of Transportation to enter into agreements with private or public entities, and provide the required match funding will ensure the state is poised to receive and implement the program's dollars effectively.
- **Funding for a Federal Funds Coordinator to maximize federal formula and discretionary grant funds to Minnesota recipients:** It is important to ensure Minnesota is poised to maximize its share of federal formula grants and to compete with other states for competitive grants. We appreciate the effort by this committee to add the needed capacity and coordination to do so.

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates the significant investments in this bill that would position Minnesota to benefit fully from federal infrastructure funding programs. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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