



February 18, 2022

RE: HF 3220/SF 3137

Dear Members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association proudly represents the 450 fuel marketers that own and operate the majority of the 2,700 fuel retailing sites found across Minnesota. These members are multi-generational family private businesses, farm COOPs, and highway truck stops that are the backbone in supplying the energy needs for transportation.

The Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association writes to respectfully oppose House File 3220 and Senate File 3137.

When Congress created the Interstate Highway System in 1956, Congress and community leaders recognized that local businesses, jobs, and tax bases would shrink as motorists and truck drivers bypassed their cities and towns. For this reason, Congress prohibited new Interstate System rest areas from offering commercial services, such as food, fuel, and convenience items. Since then, businesses have clustered near Interstate interchanges to provide these services to highway travelers at highly competitive prices. Our members, most of these small, family businesses, made the investment to offer the services demanded by these travelers.

The Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association has a long history of protecting Congress' actions by opposing any commercialization of public rest stops including the addition of EV charging equipment. Our fuel marketing members have over a 100-year history of supplying the energy needs for transportation including the building of infrastructure to meet those needs. We are the experts in providing energy to the transportation industry.

Due to their advantageous locations, state-owned commercial rest stops would establish virtual monopolies providing energy service to travelers. Current, private businesses will be hurt by allowing the installation of EV charging stations at these public rest areas. This is simple politics picking winners and losers. The loser being current, private businesses.

To meet the future needs of EV travelers, government should direct aid to current, private fuel retailing businesses for the installation of EV charging equipment. These sites are ubiquitous, familiar to consumers, and conveniently located at highway entrances and exits across Minnesota. It will be far more desirable to travelers to have the convenience of EV charging stations situated at nearby private businesses that offer the services of restaurants, coffee shops, convenience items, safe restrooms, and vehicle maintenance services.

We urge the Legislature to direct government's EV charging equipment funding to current fuel retailers and not allow the installation of such equipment at public rest stops. This will fulfill the overall goal of greatly increasing the availability of EV chargers across Minnesota's highway corridors, and at the same time, ensuring current, private businesses are able to continue providing the energy needs for tomorrow's travelers.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Gross", written in a cursive style.

Timothy Gross
Executive Director