

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
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March 8, 2023

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for House File 1322 (Tabke), House File 1346 (Kraft), and House File 2570 (Koegel).

We support House File 1322, Rep. Tabke's bill to implement transit safety measures for the seven-county Metro Transit system.

Minnesotans need more ways to stay connected. A recent poll by Data For Progress found that 30% of the Minnesotans who were polled said they would be more likely to use a bus or train, if there were greater access to high-quality public transportation where they live.

However, rider experience matters when Minnesotans are deciding when to ride. Transit users should expect to both be and feel welcome on our buses and trains. Creating this experience on a daily and hourly basis is a complex project, as it intersects with social challenges that precede ridership and are beyond the scope of a transit agency alone to solve.

However, House File 1322 approaches this complexity thoughtfully. The bill would a) create a transit rider code of conduct, b) invest in lighting, security cameras, and public address systems, c) propose uniformed transit safety officials be authorized to issue administrative citations, and d) require annual reporting to the legislature.

Second, we support House File 1346, Rep. Kraft's bill to establish an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program. Due to the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Minnesota is poised to receive an estimated \$68,164,918 from FY 2022-26 from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program, or NEVI. When paired with state investments, we can ensure Minnesotans, from Red Wing to Red Lake, have the option of driving an electric vehicle. Establishing this program is an important way to keep us moving down this road.

Finally, we support Rep. Koegel's House File 257, a bill to allow electric transmission lines to be built within trunk highway right-of-ways. As we build more clean energy facilities in Minnesota, this is an urgently needed reform. It is also a popular one. A February 2023 Public Policy Polling survey of 684 registered voters in Minnesota found that 79 percent of respondents preferred building electric transmission lines alongside existing power lines, highways, rail, and other existing public right of way corridors. Only 3 percent of respondents preferred using private lands such as farms, forests, or neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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Legislative Director

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