



February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Koegel, Vice Chair Curran, Republican Lead Franson, and members of the House Sustainable Infrastructure Policy Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House File 1346. Drive Electric Minnesota supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation establishing an electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure program to implement the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program and maximize the state's ability to benefit from federal EV infrastructure funding. We also support the department's authority to contract with private or public entities to effectively implement the program.

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. Drive Electric Minnesota 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. It will also help the state meet its statutory greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The NEVI Program is an unprecedented opportunity to invest in Minnesota's EV charging network, which is critical to reduce range anxiety and accelerate EV adoption. HF 1346 will ensure the state is prepared to utilize the \$68 million in federal funds the state is poised to receive and implement the program effectively.

In addition to authorizing the Department of Transportation to implement the NEVI Program, it will also be crucial to ensure the state can provide the required 20 percent non-federal match to ensure Minnesotans receive the maximum benefit of the program.

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates this committee's consideration of this important legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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