



Drive Electric

MINNESOTA

Dear Chair Noor,

Drive Electric Minnesota (Drive Electric MN) encourages your support for a number of provisions in the House Climate and Energy omnibus (House File 3337) that would spur electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Minnesota. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter for your consideration.

Drive Electric MN 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 MN 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.

Drive Electric Minnesota supports the following provisions in H.F. 3337, and urges this committee to adopt them:

- **State investments to make public EV charging stations available to all Minnesotans:** We are pleased to see proposed investments in charging infrastructure at various public parking facilities and at rest areas. Investing in public charging infrastructure is critical to reducing range anxiety and accelerating EV adoption in the state.
- **State funding for transit bus electrification:** Electric buses benefit communities throughout the state by reducing emissions, improving air quality, and creating jobs. Air quality benefits from electrification are particularly pronounced in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by air pollution, including those with the highest percentage of Black, Indigenous and People of Color, low-income and uninsured residents, and people living with disabilities.¹
- **Increased EV adoption by state and local government fleets:** Fleet electrification shows leadership and a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving air quality, reducing health risks for workers and communities, and reducing fuel and maintenance costs for the state. This would also help Minnesota achieve its goal to electrify 20% of the state fleet by 2027.²

¹ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health, “Life and Breath: Twin Cities Metro Area,” 2022.

² Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Great Plains Institute, “Accelerating Electric Vehicle Adoption: A Vision for Minnesota,” 2019.

- **Investments by Minnesota's investor-owned utilities in EV programs to improve access to electricity as a transportation fuel:** Electric utilities are well poised to support increased adoption and beneficial integration of EVs into the electric system to benefit all their customers. Utilities are a trusted source of information about charging solution choices, have established relationships with their customers, and can communicate and educate on the benefits of EVs. Drive Electric MN believes that investments by investor-owned utilities, alongside continued private investment, will benefit EV owners and all utility customers.
- **Grants for auto dealers seeking certification to sell electric vehicles from electric vehicle manufacturers.** Auto dealers have an important role to play in increasing EV adoption and are a needed source of information for customers considering purchasing an EV for the first time.

Minnesota has a significant opportunity to adopt state policy and leverage federal funds to advance EV adoption. Thank you for your consideration of these important policy provisions.

Sincerely,

Brendan Jordan
Vice President, Transportation & Fuels
Great Plains Institute (facilitator of Drive Electric MN)