

March 29, 2023
Transportation Finance and Policy
Minnesota House of Representatives
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.
St Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chair Hornstein and the Transportation Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Transportation Omnibus bill. The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science-based policy solutions. UCS has more than 500,000 supporters, including over 6,400 in Minnesota.

We strongly encourage you to support the following clean transportation priorities in your bill:

- Support [HF 1346](#) (Kraft), the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program
- Support [HF 2346DE3](#) (Hornstein), Metropolitan Region Sales and Use Tax

In addition, we strongly urge you to consider including the “Clean Fuel Standard Economic Impact Study and Working Group” from Governor Walz’ supplemental budget, as reflected in the Senate Transportation Omnibus bill:

- Support Sec. 32. Clean Transportation Standards and Sustainable Aviation Fuel Working Group; Report Required

Minnesota is already experiencing the impacts of climate change driven by combustion of fossil fuels, and transportation sector is *the* largest source of global warming pollution in Minnesota.^{i ii} Policies that promote transportation electrification, transit, and active transportation are crucial because air pollution from vehicles on Minnesota’s roads today poses a significant and inequitable public health problems, in addition to contributing to global warming.ⁱⁱⁱ

As the recent [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report](#) concluded, we are currently on a trajectory to exceed 1.5°C in global average temperature increase above pre-industrial levels within the next 10 to 15 years. Even at about 1.1°C now, we are already in a dangerous and deeply inequitable climate crisis. Which only reaffirms, with greater urgency, what we must do to address climate change: phase down fossil fuels sharply and quickly while transitioning to clean energy, make deep cuts in heat-trapping emissions, and rapidly shore up resilience to worsening climate impacts.

Minnesota can do its part to address global warming pollution by passing common sense clean transportation legislation to help achieve its emission reduction goals and display the ambitious climate leadership that Minnesotans are calling for.

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Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for supporting a clean, equitable transportation future for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



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ⁱ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. No date. Effects of climate change in Minnesota. Saint Paul, MN. Online at www.pca.state.mn.us/air/effects-climate-change-minnesota, accessed March 30, 2023.

ⁱⁱ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. 2023. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2005-2020. Online at www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/iraq-2sy23.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Moura, M.C.P. 2019. Who Breathes the Dirtiest Air from Vehicles in Minnesota? *The Equation* (blog), February 3. Online at <https://blog.ucsusa.org/cecilia-moura/who-breathes-dirtiest-air-from-vehicles-minnesota>.