



April 6, 2022

Dear Chair Long and members of the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota (Drive Electric MN) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House File 3337. Specifically, Drive Electric MN supports the inclusion of provisions intended to support vehicle electrification and invest in Minnesota's electric vehicle (EV) charging network.

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 electric vehicle (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.

Drive Electric Minnesota supports the following provisions in H.F. 3337:

- **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.

Drive Electric MN appreciates the significant investments in vehicle electrification and EV charging infrastructure included in this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Brendan Jordan

Vice President, Transportation & Fuels

Great Plains Institute (facilitator of Drive Electric MN)