

June 16, 2021

Chair Marquart and members of the committee,

My name is Tiffany Collins, Director for Central Community Transit. CCT provides transportation for all Kandiyohi County, Renville and Meeker County residents.

We have a fleet of 32 buses serving the 3 counties. Bus transportation is provided for all ages. Children ride the bus to and from school, daycare and other activities, while adults ride the bus to and from work and appointments. Elderly ride the bus to go for medical appointments, groceries or to visit someone and get out of the house.

In addition, we have over 50 volunteer drivers.

On behalf of The CCT and as a board member for the Minnesota Public Transit Association a member of the Volunteer Driver Coalition and a member of the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access - we thank you for including the income tax subtraction for volunteer drivers in the bill on page 11, Section 7, Volunteer Driver Reimbursement.

Volunteer Drivers are a lifeline for seniors in rural Minnesota. They volunteer their time and their vehicle to provide transportation to necessary medical appointments throughout the state of Minnesota. Many areas of rural Minnesota do not have access to transportation such as special transportation providers, public transit, UBER or LYFT. volunteer drivers reimbursed at the IRS Business Rate save local, state and federal funds.

Recruiting and maintaining a pool of compassionate, qualified and motivated drivers is essential to the success of any volunteer driver program.

Again, we thank you and the author Rep. Koegel, for providing an income tax subtraction to correct the flaw in our tax system which created a disincentive to be a volunteer driver by taxing them on mileage reimbursement over the 14 cent IRS charitable reimbursement rate.

Tiffany Collins