



100% Campaign

705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100

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www.100percentmn.org

April 6, 2021

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We're writing to express our support for five items in Chair Frank Hornstein's Transportation Omnibus bill, as shared in House File 1684DE2, 04/05/21 09:41 am.

Our transportation system is how we stay connected as Minnesotans. This bill would improve the lives of Minnesotans by meeting multiple bottom lines. It would provide us with more transportation options that are more clean and more equitable.

First, we support creating a statewide goal for reducing our vehicle miles traveled (95.10-95.25). We were pleased that the bill adopted this recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council. This robust stakeholder process built on the August 2019 report *Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation in Minnesota* which identified reducing our vehicles miles traveled, particularly in urban areas, is a key recommendation for reducing Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions.

Second, we support establishing an electric vehicle infrastructure development program and dedicating revenue to support it (4.14-4.21, 19.17-19.20, 99.21-102.12 and 26.11-26.14). An August 2019 report, *Accelerating Electric Vehicle Adoption: A Vision for Minnesota*, from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Great Plains Institute identifies building out charging infrastructure as one of the key strategies Minnesota ought to pursue to increase the use of electric vehicles in Minnesota.

A state program, like the one proposed in this bill, would provide state agencies with the direction and support they need to meet the public's demand for more accessible electric vehicle infrastructure. The bill would prioritize placing these improvements in the places that need them most: rural highways, areas underserved by transit, places disproportionately impacted by transportation pollution, and popular community destinations.

Third, we support the bill's effort to help the Metropolitan Council meet its existing goal to convert their transit bus fleet to 100% electric and to prioritize the placement of cleaner buses in areas with lower air quality (13.26-13.31, 113.29-114.19). The Met Council's December 2018 announcement that they planned to shift to the purchase of 100% electric buses in 2022 was an important commitment. This bill supports that commitment by creating a 100% deployment goal for the transit fleet by 2040. It goes further by requiring the Met Council to coordinate with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to deploy these buses in the places that need them most, those areas with the worst air quality. This is a critical policy to promote public health in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by transportation-related pollution, too often, the neighborhoods where Black, Indigenous, people of color, and low-income Minnesotans live.

Fourth, we support the revenue increases we need to transition to a cleaner, more fair, more sustainable transportation system. Two options stand out. The creation of a one-half of 1% metro sales tax is essential for creating more transit options for Minnesotans who live, work, or visit the Twin Cities (32.2-33.20). The creation of a 0.5% luxury vehicle tax on vehicles that cost 200% of the average price for the vehicle's first year of vehicle life is a win-win. It will help create more transportation options and make our tax system more progressive (24.16-24.22, 25.24-26.6, 34.8-34.29).

Fifth, we support more inclusive driver's licenses (37.8-44.25). The bill improves our existing system by making noncitizen drivers eligible for licenses. This is a common-sense change that will make our state more equitable and our transportation system safer for everyone.

Thank you for your work creating a more connected Minnesota,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Conry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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cc: Rep. Fue Lee, Rep. Erin Koegel, Rep. Ryan Winkler