

Written Testimony - Jeffrey D. Nelson, March 8, 2022,
to Minnesota House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee

I am a retired family medicine physician working with the MN350 Electrify Minnesota Buses and Trucks team.

There is so much medical research showing the adverse effect of diesel buses as well as buses that run on other fossil fuels.

By transitioning our school bus fleet as well as the public transit buses to electric as soon as possible, we definitely improve the health of Minnesotans.

The MPCA estimates that 2000-4000 Minnesotans every year die prematurely due to the pollution caused by fossil fuel trucks and buses.

The switch to electric buses has been shown to improve student's health and their academic performance.

The American Lung Association has shown that electrification of medium and heavy duty vehicles would save our nation over \$70 billion in health care costs every year!

Because electricity is produced locally and increasingly by renewable sources, we also improve the economy of Minnesota, reduce the cost of transportation, and improve our national security. There are not many processes that can claim so much benefit!

Even though the upfront cost of purchasing an electric vehicle is currently higher, the total cost over the life of the vehicle has been shown to be similar for electric versus gas or diesel vehicles. This is because maintenance is much less as well as the cost of the energy.

And this is not taking into account the savings in health care that would occur, or the very favorable impact on our CO2 emissions that are driving climate change and global warming.

So even if we did not have catastrophic climate change facing us, it would make economic and national security sense for us to transition ASAP! With the climate change issue, it is a no-brainer that we must transition now!

I strongly encourage the Minnesota House of Representatives as well as the Minnesota Senate to invest in strategies to accelerate the transition to Electric buses and trucks as fast as we possibly can. The return on investment(ROI) will be very high in so many ways, but most importantly for the health of Minnesotans and our economy.

I am a practical person and was a practical physician. Each of us must get the best return on our effort to make this a better world.

Thank you for your time. If any questions, certainly let me know.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Nelson, M.D. FAAFP
4635 Casco Ave.
Edina, MN 55424