



100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

February 17, 2021

Chair Long and Members of the Committee,

Our transportation systems shape our lives. When we decide where to build and what to drive, we're deciding how we want to be connected. We can create options that are cleaner, more fair, more convenient, and less expensive.

Fortunately, the vehicle electrification bills you're considering today do just that.

Rep. Stephenson's bill provides leadership the state needs. By offering guidance on electric vehicle planning at utilities, the bill sets up Minnesota for success. It creates an intentional, transparent, and consumer-oriented way to prepare for our future. The bill's direction on state fleets purchases will both modernize our state's vehicles and demonstrate to other large purchasers that our transition to electric vehicles is feasible. The bill's provisions on dealership training and driver rebates should accelerate the transition at the retail level, making cleaner vehicles more available for more Minnesotans.

Rep. Lee's bill makes a needed investment in cleaner, better buses. His proposal to appropriate on \$4.1 million from the Renewable Development Account to pay for the incremental costs of adding electric buses for the Metro Transit bus fleet is smart public policy. It will improve service for riders, reduce long-term operational costs for Metro Transit, and reduce air pollution near streets and roads across the metropolitan region. It's the kind of investment our legislature should make to support the electrification of public buses statewide.

Rep. Hollin's bill meets multiple bottom lines. By authorizing utilities to petition the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to promote school bus electrification, the bill provides clear public-interest criteria, a financing mechanism, and public oversight for a much-needed transition to clean buses. If enacted, this bill could be a win for schools, electric utilities, Minnesota's electric bus manufacturers, those living near public schools, and, of course, the student riders themselves.

In particular, the bill should help make progress near schools located in areas with the worst air quality. It does this by focusing PUC planning and review on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and particulate pollution and on the prioritization of bus deployment in more polluted areas. This is a forward-looking policy that will serve Minnesotans well.

Rep. Biermans's bill would make it easier for Minnesotans to visit the places we love. His proposal to dedicate \$4.1 million to installing electric vehicle charging stations in the Xcel service territory is a great first step. This investment could serve as a model for building a statewide system of charging stations in all our state parks and other state-owned properties.

Taken together, these bills would make a meaningful contribution to creating a 100% equitable and clean energy future for everyone in Minnesota. They would better connect all of us while making our communities both more clean and more fair.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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