

100%

100% Campaign

705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100

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www.100percentmn.org

March 24, 2021

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We're writing to express our support for Chair Hornstein's Sustainable Transportation Act.

Our transportation system is how we stay connected as Minnesotans. With roads and rails, on sidewalks and transit routes, through our streets and through the air, we all need more and cleaner transportation options. The decisions we make about these options will have lasting impacts on our health and our communities, on where we live and how we get to see one another.

Fortunately, the Sustainable Transportation Act aims to improve our transportation system in three ways.

First, it creates a statewide goal for reducing our vehicle miles traveled. The Minnesota Department of Transportation's August 2019 report *Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation in Minnesota* identified reducing our vehicles miles traveled, particularly in urban areas, is a key recommendation for reducing Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions. A statewide goal is a clear way to orient our state's planning toward a shared, achievable outcome that will improve the lives of Minnesotans.

Second, the bill establishes an electric vehicle infrastructure development program. 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.

Finally, the proposal would build on the Metropolitan Council's existing goal to convert their transit bus fleet to 100% electric. 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. This clear goal with its guidance and support for council planning would further our commitment to more and cleaner transportation options and a better connected Minnesota.

Please support the Sustainable Transportation Act.

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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