



# Drive Electric

## MINNESOTA

April 28, 2022

Dear Chair Rosen and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota (Drive Electric MN) appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter on the importance of ensuring Minnesota receives the maximum benefit from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). We appreciate the Committee taking the time to discuss this important issue.

Drive Electric MN is a partnership of EV champions—including automakers and auto dealers, electric utilities and cooperatives, local and state government, corporations, and nongovernmental organizations—who are working to accelerate EV adoption in Minnesota. Drive Electric MN is dedicated to encouraging the deployment of EVs and the establishment of EV charging infrastructure through public-private partnerships, financial incentives, education, technical support, and public policy. We believe EVs are an important component of energy efficiency and cleaner transportation in Minnesota that is both financially and environmentally sustainable. Advancing EV deployment will have many benefits to Minnesotans, including reduced transportation costs, cleaner air, and increased energy independence.

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program—which was authorized by the IIJA—is an unprecedented opportunity to invest in Minnesota’s EV charging network. These investments are critical to reducing range anxiety and accelerating EV adoption in the state, as well as ensuring that Minnesota is not left behind on the transition to electric transportation. Ensuring the state can secure the required 20% match is the first step to guaranteeing that Minnesotans receive the maximum benefit from the program.

There are significant gaps in Minnesota’s charging infrastructure today, and the NEVI program is a significant opportunity to invest in this infrastructure and build out a reliable charging network. The State of Minnesota should be doing all it can to ensure that it receives the maximum benefit from the NEVI program—\$68 million in federal funding—by ensuring that it can provide the 20 percent match. However, the Senate Transportation omnibus bill prohibits the state from providing matching funds for the NEVI program. This puts Minnesotans at risk of losing out on federal funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment.

Sincerely,

Brendan Jordan  
Vice President, Transportation & Fuels  
Great Plains Institute (facilitator of Drive Electric MN)