

Minnesota Senate Committee on State Government Finance and Policy and Elections
Room 1100 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy and Elections:

Thank you for holding this important hearing to address the Consumer Choice of Fuel Act, a bill that I support, which will repeal the deeply misguided electric vehicle mandate in Minnesota.

If Governor Tim Walz's administration has its way in forcing through a new mandate for zero-emissions vehicles, Minnesota consumers will have fewer choices and will incur higher costs. And Minnesota farmers? We may be hit hardest of all. In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, evidence shows that limiting consumer choice and forcing California's proposals on our state would devastate Minnesota's agriculture community. It's time for the State Legislature and this committee to reconsider following California's failed policy before he does irreparable harm to Minnesota's farmers.

In recent years, I'm aware the Minnesota authorities have recommended our state follow California's lead in adopting California's zero-emissions-vehicles rules. To me this is pretty concerning. Vehicles sold in Minnesota would be forced to meet standards set by the California Air Resource Board, a body with no accountability to Minnesota voters. Auto dealers would be required to stock a predetermined number of electric vehicles, whether Minnesota car buyers want them or not. That does not make sense for farmers throughout Minnesota who cannot realistically use electric vehicles for our daily use. The vehicle buyer close to the North Dakota border will travel and give that state the sales.

The vehicles and equipment used on farms in Minnesota have long contributed to successful and prosperous agricultural community in the state. Mandating the sale of electric vehicles in Minnesota will be an extremely drastic change from what Minnesota farmers have been used to for decades. In extremely cold weather electric vehicles can lose between 25 and 40 percent of their range making them less dependable for rural farmers. Using electric busses in Minneapolis-St. Paul proved that Electric vehicles don't work. The batteries are supplying the heat for passengers comfort and cannot last for milage. The major cities have returned to using biodiesel run vehicles.

Unfortunately, the potential consequences for our state's farmers are very real. The research by the Agricultural Retailers Association shows that if this leads to a California-style ban on gas-powered cars it would disproportionately hurt the American biofuels and agriculture sectors. Projections show that corn consumption would fall by up to 2 billion bushels while soybean consumption would decrease by up to 470 million bushels across the US. Likewise, the research shows that we are expected to see corn prices cut in half while soybean prices fall up to 44%. That would be a serious body blow for farming.

Ultimately, an unelected bureaucracy – the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – should not be dictating consumer behavior in our state. The state legislature, which represents communities

across the state, including farming communities, should be allowed to debate this policy and openly share the concerns of farmers and others. Gov Walz's end-around might be politically clever, but it's not in keeping with the spirit of democracy and public input, upon which Minnesota's democratic process is built. I strongly urge this legislature to repeal the electric vehicle mandate. I am enclosing for the committee. a Duluth News Tribune op-ed I authored last year on this issue.

Regards,

Karolyn Zurn
Resident of Callaway, MN
Past President of Minnesota Agri-Women
Past Minnesota Soybean Director
Minnesota Lead Farm Journal Foundation
Past Chair, Northern Crops Institute
Current Becker-Mahnomen Corn & Soybean EC

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/columns/pro-con-should-minnesota-embrace-electric-vehicles-no-walz-can-block-farmer-harming-california-mandates>

PRO-CON / Should Minnesota Embrace Electric Vehicles? No, Walz Can Block Farmer-Harming California Mandates

[Duluth News Tribune](#)

Karolyn Zurn

2/15/21

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Dear Committee,

Here is a real live scenario.

October 2021.

My husband calls and says our sugar beet lifter has broken down and the crew, my husband, two sons and 5 semi drivers need to keep working. My husband asks me to drive 6 hours for the part needed to keep our crew moving..

If I drove an electric vehicle I can't drive that far without an electric charge. This all takes up so much time.

During harvest time efficiency is an essential part of the farm income.