

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Eric Pratt
Chair, Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 4091 – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Dear Chairman Pratt:

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation¹ (Auto Innovators) is writing to express our support for the business electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure charging grant program in SF 4091. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the manufacturers producing nearly 99 percent of cars and light trucks sold in the U.S.

Rapid Deployment of EV Infrastructure is Needed in Minnesota

We are at a pivotal and transformative point in the automotive industry. Today, electric vehicles make up 4.4% of new vehicle sales in the U.S. In Minnesota, the figure is 2.9%. This market is growing, but we have a long way to go. The business community will be a critical partner in the growth of the EV market in Minnesota, and a grant program that will assist businesses to expand their EV fleets will help the state meet its goals and help the bottom line of businesses.

Reaching our collective goals is achievable, as long as the necessary conditions, including charging/refueling infrastructure, purchase incentives and supply chain/manufacturing policies, are in place. The auto industry is committed to a net-zero carbon transportation future. The industry will invest over \$330 billion in electrification by 2025. Automakers are building the vehicles, and a record number of models, around 130, are expected in this time frame. This, however, is only one piece of the puzzle.

To meet the ambitious targets for electrification in the coming years, addressing issues such as grid resiliency, energy demands for charging, and equitable rollout for charging infrastructure will be an integral part of a successful future for EVs in America. To that end, SF 4091 provides a good start for funding EV charging infrastructure buildout.

¹ Focused on creating a safe and transformative path for sustainable industry growth, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the manufacturers producing nearly 99 percent of cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. Members include motor vehicle manufacturers, original equipment suppliers, technology and other automotive-related companies and trade associations. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation is headquartered in Washington, DC, with offices in Detroit, MI and Sacramento, CA. For more information, visit our website <http://www.autosinnovate.org>.

Minnesota currently approximately 950 Level 2 (L2) charging stations and approximately 230 Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations, which is woefully inadequate when compared to that which is necessary to support the EV sales directed in the Clean Car standard.

Minnesota businesses need to be able to afford the initial cost of electric vehicles, and they must be confident that they will be able to charge or refuel. Overcoming the initial cost of a fleet change will result in long-term cost savings and improved profitability. Therefore, it is critical that the funded provided in SF 4091 be enacted. There's no question that accessibility and visibility to EV chargers is a key aspect of an expanded nationwide network and we encourage passage of SF 4091.

Thank you for your consideration of the Auto Innovators' position. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jfisher@autosinnovate.org or 202-326-5562, should I be able to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Fisher
Director, State Affairs

