



March 29, 2023

Dear Chair Frentz, Vice Chair Xiong, Ranking Minority Member Mathews, and members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate File 2847. We applaud this committee's consideration of several important provisions related to advancing electric vehicle (EV) deployment in Minnesota through its omnibus bill.

Drive Electric Minnesota 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 Minnesota believes advancing EV deployment will have many benefits to Minnesotans, including reduced transportation costs, cleaner air, and energy independence.

Drive Electric Minnesota supports the following provisions in S.F. 2847:

- **Rebates for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles.** Rebate programs and other financial incentives make EVs more accessible to all Minnesotans, particularly with the inclusion of used vehicle rebates and additional rebate amounts for lower-income households.
- **Grants to support school bus electrification.** Electric school buses can benefit school districts and communities across the state by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing fuel and maintenance costs, and improving air quality.
- **Increased EV adoption by state fleets.** In addition to helping meet state greenhouse gas reduction goals and improving air pollution, EVs generate economic benefits for state fleets through reduced fuel and maintenance costs. According to Consumer Reports, owning an EV saves a typical driver between \$6,000 and \$10,000 over the lifetime of the vehicle compared to a gas-powered car.<sup>1</sup>
- **Investments by Minnesota's electric utilities in EV programs to improve access to electricity as a transportation fuel.** Drive Electric Minnesota believes that investments by investor-owned utilities, alongside continued private investment, will benefit EV owners and utility customers.

Moving forward, it will be critical to ensure that any Minnesota EV rebate program is adequately funded to prevent uncertainty or exhausted funds from having the adverse effect of slowing EV adoption. Additional funding will be needed to support a successful rebate program and keep pace with the anticipated growth of EV sales.

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates the significant investments in vehicle electrification included in this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Berninger  
Public Policy Manager, Transportation & Fuels  
Great Plains Institute (Drive Electric Minnesota facilitator)

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Halso, *Electric Vehicle Ownership Costs: Today's Electric Vehicles Offer Big Savings for Consumers*, Consumer Reports, October 2020.