



March 28, 2023

Chair Nick Frentz
Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Frentz and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum (MnCEF), I am writing to you concerning language in Sen. Frentz's SF2847 that requires public utilities to file a transportation electrification plan with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to promote and facilitate electric vehicle deployment and adoption, as well as allowing for cost recovery.

While we understand the development of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure is inevitable for the increased prevalence of electric vehicles, we are concerned about the negative consequences of this approach. By requiring utilities to develop these plans and allowing them to recover costs from their implementation, we are concerned that they will be given a leg up on an emerging market. There is a significant opportunity to increase competition in the market and allow businesses and other organizations to work alongside utilities to build out the infrastructure as demand for EVs grows. This would produce a robust network of charging stations while significantly reducing the burden ratepayers would face if utilities are given the opportunity to monopolize yet another corner of the energy space in Minnesota.

Additionally, because this infrastructure would highly likely outpace market demand of EV adoption, many ratepayers would be forced to subsidize the development of EV infrastructure, even if they do not own or use electric vehicles. The burden would fall especially hard on lower income Minnesotans as the cost of EVs are still high relative to traditional vehicles, essentially subsidizing the adoption of EVs for higher-income Minnesotans.

We believe there needs to be a more balanced and transparent approach to the development of EV infrastructure that benefits both ratepayers and EV owners. Allowing private companies and other entities to develop and operate EV charging stations, would creating competition and drive down costs. Additionally, we need to ensure Minnesotans who do not own EVs are not carrying the burden of paying for infrastructure that would only benefit a small number in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you on meeting our energy goals and ensuring a clean energy future for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kayla Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kayla Christensen
Executive Director
Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum