

April 25, 2023

Minnesota Senate  
Finance Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building, Rm 1200  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 3157 - Senate Transportation Omnibus Bill - Transmission right of way; NEVI, clean fuels studies

Dear Chair Marty, Senator Pratt, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of three key provisions in the Senate Transportation Omnibus Bill. Specifically the inclusion of Sen. McEwen's bill, SF2591, which allows for a streamlined process for use of the existing right-of-way for the construction of certain transmission lines. We are also thankful for the thoughtful funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and clean transportation fuel studies.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

CEEM believes the inclusion of SF2591 in the Omnibus bill is critical to a secure clean energy future in Minnesota and will help our state reach its goal of 100% Clean Energy by 2040. Constrained transmission lines and the time and cost to acquire land, permit, and build new ones are some of the biggest obstacles to the clean energy transition. Streamlining this process by clarifying the use of existing transportation right-of-ways for the building of transmission infrastructure is low-hanging fruit in making it easier to site these projects. Furthermore, the use of transportation right-of-way for new transmission infrastructure was highlighted as a way to efficiently expand the use of clean energy in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. We are grateful this important provision was added to the Senate Transportation Omnibus.

We also applaud the creation and funding of an electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure program in order to implement the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The NEVI Program represents an unprecedented opportunity to advance the EV industry, expand the fast-charging EV network statewide, and is critical to easing range anxiety, which is key to accelerating the broader adoption of electric vehicles.

Finally, CEEM also supports the Clean Fuel Standard and Sustainable Aviation Fuels working group included in the Omnibus bill. This action is necessary to understand how Minnesota can remain a leader in clean fuels in the Midwest, implement a clean fuels standard and bolster a clean energy economy. Moreover, the NEVI program and establishment of working groups will help fulfill Clean Transportation goals detailed in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony for these provisions in the Senate Transportation Omnibus bill. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



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