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Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dibble and Committee Members,

My name is MK Anderson and I am writing to you today on behalf of Fresh Energy. Fresh Energy is a thirty year-old, Minnesota based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that is working to achieve equitable carbon neutral economies. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of support today regarding SF 1132.

In 2022, The International Panel on Climate Change issued a “red alert to humanity,” proving the need of and calling for a dramatic reduction in and eventual elimination of greenhouse gas emissions. Global greenhouse gas emissions attributable to human activity must peak by 2025 and rapidly fall in order for our global economy to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Minnesota has made great progress in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, but we have fallen behind in making similar progress in other sectors of the economy—like transportation.

As a result, transportation is now the largest attributable source of greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota as well as in the United States. Reducing transportation emissions is an absolute imperative to meet not only Minnesota’s climate goals, but also the required emissions reduction necessary to decarbonize economies worldwide and to ensure a habitable planet that can sustain conditions required for human life as we know it.

Significant federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) aim to deploy infrastructure, spur market development, and invest in state-level programs to accelerate emissions reductions from the transportation sector. Of note, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 establishes a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program to provide funding to States to strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability.¹ SF 1132 authorizes Minnesota to unlock this federal funding and implement the NEVI Formula Program, accelerating transportation decarbonization across the state.

SF 1132 also allows the State to accept private and public matching funds, further strengthening the NEVI Formula Program. Moving forward, it will be crucial to allocate state matching funds to enable a more

¹ <https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/12744>

equitable build out of this infrastructure and expand opportunities to host EV charging stations to small businesses that may not have access to the capital to provide a 20% match.

Fresh Energy supports the passage of this bill and thanks Senator Morrison for the support in accelerating the transition to electric vehicles in our state.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh-in on this important issue. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

MK Anderson
Senior Policy Associate, Energy Transition