

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

March 17, 2023

Chair Dibble and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senate File 1562 (Dibble), Senate File 2790 (Morrison), and Senate File 2591 (McEwen).

Minnesota is becoming a cleaner and more equitable state. This is thanks, in part, to recent action by our state and federal governments. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS Act are accelerating this transition nationwide. The enactment of the 100% clean energy law has set our state on the path to meet our own ambitious, but doable goal of equitably decarbonizing the electric sector by 2040. By maximizing federal funding, updating our local planning processes, and easing transmission siting, these three bills will help Minnesota complete this transition and make sure Minnesotans benefit as we do.

First, we support Senate File 1562, Senator Dibble's bill to establish a federal matching grant and technical assistance program within the Department of Transportation. This bill is essential for making sure Minnesotans fully benefit from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS Act. This bill establishes a matching grant fund and provides criteria for the use of the grants. It also creates technical assistance grants and prioritizes how they ought to be administered. Finally, the bill appropriates the funds we need to ensure Minnesota applications for competitive grants are, in fact, more competitive when compared to those from other states. These investments will make tangible improvements in the lives of Minnesotans: safer roads, more transportation options, and cleaner air, to name just three.

Second, we support Sen. Morrison's Senate File 2790. This bill will help ensure Minnesota meets its ambitious, and necessary, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction goals in the transportation sector. Senate File 2790 will align the work of the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council with Minnesota's GHG emissions reduction goals by setting sector-specific targets within the overall state goals and by aligning planning with those goals.

As the state's metropolitan planning entity, the Metropolitan Council has a unique and essential role in making sure development and land use align with our state's climate goals, and SF 2790 includes a study of this important issue. The bill will also help infuse climate change efforts within the metro area's decennial comprehensive planning efforts, helping to align development and land use across the metro to more fully address climate change.

We also applaud the effort to ensure the Department of Transportation considers and addresses climate change impacts of how it plans for and develops transportation infrastructure in the state. How our state develops infrastructure has significant impacts on the ability of Minnesotans to

get around, and on how much climate pollution is created while doing so. We support seeing this part of the bill and look forward to it continuing to develop and be refined.

Finally, we support Sen. McEwen's Senate File 2591, a bill to allow electric transmission lines to be built within trunk highway right-of-ways. As we build more clean energy facilities in Minnesota, this is an urgently needed reform. It is also a popular one. A February 2023 Public Policy Polling survey of 684 registered voters in Minnesota found that 79 percent of respondents preferred building electric transmission lines alongside existing power lines, highways, rail, and other existing public right of way corridors. Only 3 percent of respondents preferred using private lands such as farms, forests, or neighborhoods.

Please support Senate Files 1562, 2790, and 2591.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

Aurora Vautrin
Legislative Director
100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114