



March 22, 2023

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

Chair Dibble, and Senate Transportation Finance and Policy Members:

The Coalition for Clean Transportation (CCT) appreciates the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SF1132. CCT strongly supports the authorization of a state program to implement the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program.

Electric vehicles (EVs) benefit all Minnesotans by improving air quality, mitigating climate and health impacts, and promoting a sustainable and resilient future for our state. Reducing transportation-related emissions is a necessary safeguard for Minnesotans and our climate. Transportation is the largest contributor to climate change pollution in Minnesota and in the United States, accounting for approximately 25% of total emissions in our state. Transportation-related air pollution is a significant contributor to cardiopulmonary deaths— playing a role in 10% of deaths in the Twin Cities metro area,¹ disproportionately impacting BIPOC and under-resourced communities where residents live near highways. Additionally, transitioning towards cleaner and renewable energy sources can create job opportunities and stimulate economic growth.

Minnesota will receive \$68 million in federal funds over the course of five years through the NEVI Program. This funding will enable Minnesota to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure through the establishment of a connected network of publicly accessible DC Fast Chargers. This network must meet rigorous reliability standards to ensure that charging is available when it is needed. This network of DC Fast Chargers will increase public access to this critical EV infrastructure, which is crucial to the acceleration of EV adoption in Minnesota. A connected, reliable, publicly accessible EV charging network will reduce range anxiety on longer trips, which is identified by consumers as the leading barrier to EV adoption.

EVs are gaining in popularity, but cost concerns and limited access to charging infrastructure are significant barriers for Minnesotans interested in purchasing EVs, particularly those in low-income communities and communities of color that are already disproportionately feeling the negative impacts from transportation pollution. Charging stations are largely concentrated in affluent areas, while “charging deserts”— areas without public access to EV charging—are generally located in rural and low-income areas. While charging at home is the most affordable way to charge EVs today, it is not an equally viable option for everyone, particularly for renters

¹ Life and Breath Report-Metro Area, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) (2022), at page 2.

and people living in multi-family homes. Support is needed for safe, accessible charging infrastructure for non-single-family homeowners.

Passing SF1132 will guarantee the state's readiness to efficiently utilize the \$68 million in federal funds. Along with granting MnDOT authorization to implement the NEVI Program, it is also essential to provide the necessary 20% state match to ensure that Minnesota can take full advantage of the program.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the passage of SF1132.

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CCT organizes and advocates to eliminate Minnesota's transportation-related climate emissions through the increased adoption and availability of sustainable and equitable electrification options, centering BIPOC and under-resourced communities who disproportionately bear the impact of climate change, air pollution, and experience high rates of mobility injustice. CCT envisions a future where all Minnesotans, from urban to suburban to rural, have equitable access to clean transportation options that promote health and connection for all.

