

March 22, 2023

Chair Dibble and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Senate File 2156 (Murphy), Senate File 2790 (Morrison), and Senate File 1132 (Morrison).

As we transition to a more equitable and clean energy future, we have the opportunity to improve the lives of Minnesotans. This transition means more jobs, cleaner air, better buildings, and new transportation options. To get there, we'll need to rethink how we plan, how we build, and how we stay connected. These three bills will help us do that.

First, we support Senate File 2156, Senator Murphy's bill to establish the 'Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act'. The bill would require that materials used in the construction (or major renovation) of state buildings over 50,000 square feet or trunk highways include a Type III Environmental Product Declaration, as certified by the International Organization for Standard's 14025 Standard. Meeting this standard would help ensure that the steel, concrete, and asphalt paving materials that Minnesota uses have lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions. The bill provides a pilot program, a waiver process, grants to businesses to support compliance, and a requirement to report back to the legislature in 2025. All of these will help ensure the program meets its goals.

Second, we support Senator 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 (MNDoT) 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 MNDoT 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.

Third, we support Senate File 1132, Senator Morrison's bill to establish an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program. Due to the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Minnesota is poised to receive an estimated \$68,164,918 from FY 2022-26 from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program, or NEVI. When paired with state investments, we can ensure Minnesotans, from Red Wing to Red Lake, have the option of driving an electric vehicle. Establishing this program is an important way to keep us moving down this road.

Transitioning to a net zero emissions economy by 2050 is a generational challenge for Minnesotans. It's one we can meet, if we enact legislation like this.

Please support Senate Files 2156, 2790, and 1132.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aurora Vautrin

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