



April 29, 2024

Dear Chair Marty, Vice Chair Frentz, Ranking Minority Member Pratt, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Drive Electric Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate File 5284. We support Minnesota transitioning to zero-emission transit buses. Language included in this bill at lines 110.26-113.11 will ensure the state is planning for and deploying technologies needed to reduce the transportation sector's impact on the climate and human health.

Drive Electric Minnesota is a partnership of electric vehicle (EV) champions—including automakers and auto dealers, electric utilities and cooperatives, local and state government, corporations, and nongovernmental organizations—who are working to accelerate EV adoption in Minnesota. Drive Electric Minnesota believes EVs of all types are an important component of energy efficiency and cleaner transportation in Minnesota that is both financially and environmentally sustainable.

Drive Electric Minnesota supports investment in electric buses, which will benefit the state through reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lower fuel and maintenance costs, quieter operation, and improved air quality. Provisions in Senate File 5284 will jump-start the state's transition to a cleaner and healthier transit system.

The environmental and health benefits of electrifying transportation are well known. A recent report found that electrifying Chicago's bus fleet would reduce nitrous oxide and fine particulate matter emissions from buses by at least 98 percent, leading to reduced impacts from health issues like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart attacks and strokes.¹ This is particularly beneficial for the low-income and minority communities that are disproportionately impacted by air pollution. That report also found that electrifying the city's bus fleet would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 73 percent compared to diesel.

In addition to these environmental and public health benefits, deploying electric buses in Minnesota supports local economies. New Flyer electric bus manufacturing facilities in St. Cloud and Crookston contribute to job creation and economic benefits in the state.

Electrifying Minnesota's bus fleet would generate climate, health, and economic benefits both locally and globally. Drive Electric Minnesota supports this legislation and appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Berninger

¹ Chicago Transit Authority, [Charging Forward: CTA Bus Electrification Planning Report, February 2022](https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/Charging_Forward_Report_2-10-22_(FINAL).pdf), [https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/Charging_Forward_Report_2-10-22_\(FINAL\).pdf](https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/Charging_Forward_Report_2-10-22_(FINAL).pdf)

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