

April 29, 2024

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

The Minnesota Future Fuels Coalition appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate File 5284. The Future Fuels Coalition has been working together for several years to support the development of a clean transportation standard for Minnesota. The coalition is facilitated by the Great Plains Institute, and members include renewable fuel producers and marketers, electric utilities, environmental nonprofits, auto manufacturers, and agriculture and industry groups. The coalition advocates for the implementation of a clean transportation standard tailored to Minnesota and supports the development of a study assessing the policy and its potential benefits for the state. Language at lines 10.14-10.19 and 138.19-139.18 of this bill will provide valuable information to the state in its consideration of this important policy.

We are grateful to the 2023 legislature for establishing the Clean Transportation Working Group and to the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Pollution Control, and Transportation for convening a comprehensive group of stakeholders that concluded that a Minnesota clean transportation standard [“could be the largest single policy for reducing carbon pollution from transportation in Minnesota”](#).

As a diverse group of stakeholders, we support a clean transportation standard tailored to Minnesota. We believe that a policy designed based on recommendations in the white paper [“A Clean Fuels Policy for the Midwest”](#) can have many benefits, including:

- Benefits for consumers through market access for clean fuels that are often lower cost than conventional fuels and currently face barriers to entry in the marketplace.
- Equitable access to clean transportation for all Minnesota communities.
- Increased investment in cleaner fuels for all types of vehicles and aircraft, facilitating a more innovative and prosperous clean fuels sector and spurring consumer demand for cleaner products.
- A technology- and fuel-neutral, performance-based approach that rewards the cleanest fuels and expands the fuel market without having the government pick winners and losers.
- Reduced air pollution and associated health benefits, particularly in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by transportation pollution.
- Economic incentives and market demand to maximize the resource value of organic waste (including manure, biosolids, and food waste), reducing the climate impacts of organic waste, and supporting counties' efforts to achieve state recycling goals.
- Increased energy independence by relying less on imported resources and more on state resources.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation, electricity, and agriculture sectors.
- The potential to support voluntary farmer-led efforts to invest in and adopt agricultural conservation practices that benefit soil health and water quality and reduce farm-level greenhouse gas emissions.

Bills passed in 2023 positioned Minnesota as a national leader in climate legislation, and being the first Midwestern state to pass transformative transportation decarbonization legislation would further cement that position. The Future Fuels Coalition supports this study to allow the

state to continue weighing the potential benefits of a clean transportation standard and other transportation policies.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Berninger  
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Great Plains Institute