



Jeff S. Lacher
Staff Representative/Organizer
Communications Workers of America
CWA District 7, AFL-CIO, CLC
10800 Lyndale Ave. S
Bloomington, MN 55420
Cell: 716-491-2839

April 2, 2024

Chairperson and Members of the Committee;

The Communications Workers of America (CWA), AFL-CIO, a Union of about 4,500 members in Minnesota strongly supports SF 4938.

The environmental and health benefits of a speedy transition to zero-emissions transit buses should be all too obvious. The Committee has no doubt seen the mountains of evidence of the health and environmental benefits of a move away from internal combustion engines. Given the costs of transition, perhaps the economic benefits are a bit less obvious.

All too often opponents of common-sense legislation try to pit environmental or health and safety concerns against economic and employment concerns. While this is very often a false choice, it is rarely more obviously so than in the case of a transition from diesel to zero emission buses in Minnesota.

Nearly 900 members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) build electric buses for New Flyer Industries in two bus manufacturing plants in Minnesota. These jobs come with Union wages and benefits, fair working conditions, and middle class job opportunities in Crookston and St. Cloud Minnesota. In fact, New Flyer is among the largest employers in both cities. In addition to the workers at those two manufacturing plants, there are hundreds of additional jobs at small suppliers around the state supported by the electric bus industry. As a result, the economic benefits of the transition from diesel to zero-emission buses anywhere in the country will be felt most in Minnesota. SF 4938 provides the opportunity for Minnesotans to reap the environmental, health, *and* economic benefits

SF 4938 is even more than a win-win piece of legislation, it is common sense for the common good. The Communications Workers of American strongly urges the Senate to pass this Bill.

Thank You.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Lacher', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeff S. Lacher
Staff Representative
Communications Workers of America (CWA), District 7, AFL-CIO