Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee

Re: SF 3853, EV Fee Fix Bill and SF 4169, Expanding/increasing public charging tax

Dear Committee Members,

My family has been driving plug-in electric vehicles (EV) for close to 10 years now. Our reasons for doing so were originally related to the environmental impacts of gasoline and diesel internal combustion engines (ICE), though we have experienced the significant financial savings of operating an EV over that time. We are able to charge our cars at home, so the operating costs are much lower than ICE vehicles and "fuel" prices are much more stable.

Beyond the environmental benefits of decreased point-source pollution and the fact that electric generation gets cleaner every month in this country, the experience of driving an EV has it hands-down over ICE vehicles. EV's are quiet and smooth and powerful and have very few moving parts, compared to ICE cars with their complex engines and transmissions. I am a "car guy" from way back and have been spoiled by EV's; I just won't go back to ICE cars.

We are glad to pay our fair share of transportation taxes for road maintenance and such, but the fees for EV owners that were put in place in the last year or so are punitive, not just trying to get EV's to pay their fair share. SF 3853 seeks to bring those EV fees into a more reasonable range and would evenly tax those who operate excessively heavy vehicles, no matter the fuel source. We urge you to pass this bill.

While we support the part of SF 4169 that seeks to re-establish the funding for NEVI fast-charging build outs, we do not support the accelerating per kilowatt taxation of public chargers. EV's should pay their way, but this does not seem right, so SF 4169 should not be approved.

Thank you for your consideration,

Charles Stephens
151 Goodrich Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55102
612-597-4370