September 25, 2019 | Submitted Electronically

Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: [Congratulations] Minnesota Businesses Support Clean Car Standards

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ceres BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy) Network – a coalition of 55 major employers and manufacturers across the United States. As a representative of this network, many of whom have operations and facilities in Minnesota, I commend your leadership in proposing the adoption of Clean Cars Minnesota. The benefits of adopting clean car standards extend beyond the transportation sector, strengthening Minnesota’s economy, improving public health and curbing climate pollution.

With the proposal of Clean Cars Minnesota, Minnesota joins 15 other states and the District of Columbia in taking major steps to decarbonize the transportation sector and offer residents more choices when purchasing vehicles. At a time when the federal vehicle emission standards are under attack, new commitments from states like Minnesota and New Mexico are instrumental in maintaining the nation’s momentum to transition to clean transportation. By increasing the availability of clean vehicles, Clean Cars Minnesota will also make progress towards the state’s own 80 percent greenhouse gas reduction target set by the Next Energy Generation Act. The forward-looking policies of Clean Cars Minnesota will provide companies and investors with policy certainty that enables long-term investments in the state and catalyzes the development of new technologies and associated local jobs.

Clean car standards are also important for leading businesses and institutions that have set ambitious goals to reduce their carbon footprint. Vehicle fleets are both a significant cost and a major contributor to companies’ emissions reduction efforts. Compared to internal combustion engine vehicles, electric vehicles reduce the financial risks associated with fuel cost and supply volatility and require less maintenance, reducing repair related down-time and increasing vehicle safety. These cleaner, more efficient vehicles reduce GHG emissions while enabling businesses to cut operating expenses
in company fleets. A 2018 analysis projects that Minnesota stands to gain more than $30 billion from the deployment of electric vehicles in avoided expenditures on fuel and vehicle maintenance, reduced utility bills and environmental benefits by 2050. Clean Cars Minnesota will drive the availability and development of EV models, unlocking these potential earnings and supplying the marketplace with clean, cost-saving vehicles for the benefit of citizens, businesses and municipalities.

On behalf of the BICEP Network, we applaud your commitment to advance clean energy and reduce the state’s climate pollution through the Clean Cars Minnesota. Businesses recognize that climate change is a material risk and that the transition to clean transportation is as valuable to their bottom line as it is for the state of Minnesota.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Kelly
Vice President Government Relations,
On behalf of Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP)

For additional information, please contact Mel Mackin, Senior Associate for State Policy at Ceres (mackin@ceres.org).

The Ceres BICEP Network comprises influential companies advocating for stronger climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal level in the U.S. For more information on the Ceres BICEP Network, visit www.ceres.org/BICEP.