

Educate your legislators

Why:

Oil interests have lobbyists reaching out to legislators all the time, but legislators hear much less about why transportation electrification is good. We have done a lot of education for the general public, and now it's time for us to reach out to our legislators to talk with them about EVs. The good news is that EVs are a great discussion topic no matter what side of the political aisle your legislator is on, and in fact conservative legislators especially need to hear from us. With this education we can help make the next legislative session more EV friendly and prevent oil interests from slowing EV adoption.

Do this:

You just need to connect with two people: Your State Senator and State Representative.

1. Find your State Senator and Representative by visiting <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>
 2. Send them an email saying that you would like to talk with them about EVs. Below is a sample email. You may use it as is, modify as you like, or write something totally different.
 3. After you have emailed them, give them a week to respond. If you don't hear anything, simply follow up by calling them and/or their legislative assistant.
 4. Try to set up an appointment to talk about EVs with them.
 5. Please let MNEVO coordinator know what your status is with your legislators: Contacted/Responded/Discussed.
- We collect this information so we know how many and which legislators our members have reached.

With this effort we hope that you can make a personal connection with your legislators. Our main objective is to educate all legislators about EVs and at the same time you get to establish yourself as the go to person if they have any questions about EVs. Hopefully, this personal connection will provide more weight during the next legislative session if we need to recommend, support or fight some bills.

Email template:

Dear Senator / Representative,

My name is _____. I'm your constituent and I drive an electric car.

Transportation electrification will have a big impact on our lives in the coming years, and since I have some experience in this area I would like to talk with you about electric vehicles.

In addition to being better vehicles than traditional gas cars, they also provide other advantages:

1. EVs use less energy and are cheaper to drive.
Households can spend saved money in the local economy.
2. Electricity used in EVs is bought from local electric utilities.
No need to import oil for driving, and increased utility revenue supports jobs in Minnesota.
3. Driving electric doesn't produce any local emissions and lowers overall emissions.
More EVs on our roads will lead to less pollution and better air quality.

When would you have time to talk about this?

Sincerely,

Name

Phone number

email

Address

Talking points for meeting with your legislator

We can best educate our legislators by sharing why and how we use drive our electric cars. We should also explain why EVs are good for Minnesota economy and environment. Hopefully this will help our legislators to understand the value of EVs and provide them good perspectives and talking points that enable them to make stronger case for EVs during next legislative session. Make sure to print out the "MN EV Info List" for a handout www.EVInfoList.com

Here are some examples of the key talking points.

Your experiences:

- Fun to drive
- Easy to charge overnight at home
- Much lower "fueling" costs
- How you use your car

Good for Minnesota economy:

- Driving electric is cheaper so families can use saved funds in local economy
- Less oil import, no need to export money to pay for that
- Electricity is paid to local utilities, money stays in MN
- Provides work for electricians, utility company personnel and renewable energy installers
- Rural drivers save more because they drive more and rural utilities really need the load growth

Cleaner air:

- Transportation is the biggest air emission producer in Minnesota
- No need to burn oil in Minnesota to power transportation
- EVs can be powered with renewables and grid is getting cleaner
- Presently vehicle emissions concentrate in inner cities, negatively impacting lower income neighborhoods