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March 22, 2021

Sen. Julie A. Rosen
Members, Senate Committee on Finance
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Opposition to SF 450, Meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Rosen and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony pertaining to Senate File 450. I am writing on behalf of MN350 Action, a Minnesota nonprofit committed to climate justice that works with a broad coalition across the state. **We are writing to express our strong opposition to SF 450, which would stop the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) from doing its most basic and common-sense functions by revoking the agency's authority to adopt vehicle emission standards.**

The stated goal of SF 450 is to "improve air quality ... in the most practicable way possible," as outlined in the first sentence. But by taking away the MPCA's authority to regulate automobile emissions, it would in fact do the opposite.

At MN350 Action, we are focused on the short-term and long-term health and wellness of Minnesotans and our environment, a shift to renewable energy that is equitable and both environmentally and economically beneficial, and averting the climate crisis that is already affecting our state. **This problematic bill would be detrimental to all three areas.**

In terms of the health of Minnesotans, we know how harmful air pollution is, especially that caused by automobile emissions. In a paper published in the journal Cardiovascular Research last year, we learned that it's even worse than previously thought: Air pollution, mainly caused by fossil fuel use (which includes car emissions), causes 8.8 million extra early deaths every year globally.¹

¹ Cardiovascular Research. Loss of life expectancy from air pollution compared to other risk factors: a worldwide perspective, 2020, <https://academic.oup.com/cvras/article/116/11/1910/5770885>



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In terms of the shift to renewable energy, as you're aware, the MPCA recently detailed how Minnesota is not on track to meet the bipartisan emission reduction goals set by the Next Generation Energy Act.² That report also explained that the transportation sector is MN's largest area of emissions, with more than 70% of those coming from passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks (including SUVs), and medium- to heavy-duty trucks. And when it comes to the climate crisis, that same report noted how our state's greenhouse gas emissions actually increased from 2016 to 2018, a sign that we are not only failing to meet bipartisan goals on climate-change-causing emissions but also actively neglecting the future of Minnesotans.

In short, we need to expeditiously adopt the Clean Cars Minnesota rule, a common-sense proposal from the MPCA that would cut these emissions, cut air pollution, and give Minnesotans better ability to buy the Low Emission Vehicles (LEVs) and Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) that they want for reasons ranging from economic to environmental to pure consumer desire. The proposed bill SF 450, by attempting to undercut this rulemaking from the MPCA, would consequently be pro-pollution, pro-emissions and anti-consumer choice.

Thus, MN350 Action and our thousands of supporters statewide support upholding the MPCA's authority to regulate automobile emission standards, and we oppose SF 450.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in this important case. We are happy to provide more information if it is of interest to the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Lauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" and last name "Lauer" clearly legible.

Alex Lauer
Volunteer
MN350 Action

² MPCA. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2005-2018, 2021,
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/iraq-1sy21.pdf>