



*Working to protect the Mississippi River
and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.*

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March 30, 2023

RE: Support for a Clean Transportation Standard work group in SF 3157.

Chair and members of the committee,

On behalf of Friends of the Mississippi River, I am writing to express our support for the inclusion of a Clean Transportation Standard work group in [SF 3157](#) - the amended Senate Omnibus Transportation Finance & Policy Bill.

A Minnesota Clean Transportation Standard (CTS) has the potential to significantly reduce transportation emissions and help the state reach internationally recognized, science-based emission reduction goals.

This technology-neutral, performance-based approach will reduce climate pollution from all transportation fuels (including gasoline, diesel, biofuels and electricity) while allowing fuel providers to choose the most cost-effective path forward.

We are confident that the recommendations that emerge from the work group will guide Minnesota's efforts to further reduce transportation emissions while providing multiple additional benefits for our state, including:

- **Promoting vehicle electrification:** rewarding vehicle electrification as a low-carbon fuel pathway that helps accelerate our transition toward an EV future.
- **Reducing traditional vehicle emissions:** gradually lowering the carbon intensity of traditional fuel vehicles that are not going to be electrified. Ensuring that emissions from these vehicles (some of which will be on the road for another 15-20 years) are addressed is essential to achieving our climate goals even as we electrify.
- **Incentivizing soil health & conservation:** establishing credit premiums for cropland-derived biofuels produced on acreage utilizing practices that promote soil health and protect our water, while mitigating indirect land use change.
- **Enhancing environmental justice:** addressing important economic and racial inequities embedded in our transportation systems by facilitating new transportation investments that

primarily benefit disadvantaged, low-income and rural communities.

- **Promoting next-generation cropping systems:** including credit premiums for cropland-derived biofuels from continuous living cover cropping systems (such as winter annual oilseeds like camelina and pennycress) that have significant co-benefits for water quality, wildlife and pollinators.

The Clean Transportation Standard (CTS) represents an exciting opportunity to reduce Minnesota's transportation emissions over time.

Please include language funding a CTS work group in [SF 3157](#) - the amended Senate Omnibus Transportation Finance & Policy Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Trevor Russell', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Russell
Water Program Director
Friends of the Mississippi River