

SUPPORT EV CHARGING (SB 492 / HB 1322)

February 28, 2022

Dear Members of the Georgia Legislature:

Our companies and associations write in strong support of SB 492, sponsored by Chairman Jeff Mullis, and HB 1322, sponsored by Chairman Alan Powell, to create a competitive charging marketplace for electric vehicles (EVs). Our businesses and the associations who represent us want to be a part of expanding the EV charging network. We own and operate fuel outlets, convenience stores, grocery stores and restaurants in the state of Georgia, each serving a vital role in our communities as employers, taxpayers, and businesses serving residents and visitors alike.

As more Georgians consider purchasing electric vehicles, our locations are well-suited to provide the charging stations they will need. Prompt passage of SB 492 and HB 1322, which support the development of a competitive EV marketplace, will enable us to do that. It is imperative that Georgia's legislature promptly address EV policy so that we can begin partnering with power providers and others in our communities to ensure that every Georgian who wants an electric vehicle can be confident he or she will be able to safely and conveniently refuel just as they do today.

The market is moving quickly. The federal government is preparing to spend \$135 million in Georgia over the next five years to help companies like ours install EV charging stations. With some modifications to current laws that were not designed for EV charging markets, we are prepared to provide that service. However, legislative action is essential to us accomplishing that objective.

We call upon legislators to pass SB 492 and HB 1322 which encourage private investment to expand the EV charging network in Georgia. This legislation addresses three main obstacles for our industries by:

- **allowing charging station owners to resell electricity to EV drivers;**
- **asking utility companies to develop a business EV rate structure; and**
- **allowing regulated power companies to own and operate charging stations in a competitive manner under the same regulations and rate structure as other EV charging retailers.**

Without this legislation, our businesses are prohibited from selling electricity to EV drivers. This is an insurmountable obstacle to generating a return on investment in EV charging stations. In addition, without a change in policy, there is an ongoing threat of regulated utilities making use of their status as monopolies to gain a competitive edge over private businesses. One way they seek to do this is by charging all ratepayers – regardless of income or whether they drive an EV – more money to underwrite the utilities' investment in charging stations. This imposes unnecessary and regressive costs on ratepayers while also preventing investments the private sector is willing to make if presented with a pathway to profitability. This legislation is necessary to ensure there is a pathway to profitability for private sector investors in EV charging.

Georgia has thus far demonstrated a commitment to being a leader in EV technology, innovation, and manufacturing. SB 492 and HB 1322 ensure that the charging marketplace develops in a competitive manner. Their successful passage would send an extraordinary signal to our industries that it is safe to invest in EV charging stations in the state of Georgia.

We are grateful for your consideration.

Charge Ahead Partnership
Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
Georgia Food Industry Association
Georgia Oilmen's Association
Georgia Restaurant Association
National Federation of Independent Businesses

Aden's Minit Markets, Inc.
Apani, Inc.
Bagwell & Spears
Circle K
Clipper Petroleum
enmarket
Friendly Express
Geo. H. Green Oil
Golden Pantry Food Stores

Jet Food Stores
Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.
Morgan Oil Company
Old Clinton Gas
PetroSouth
Pilot Travel Centers LLC
Pit Stop Convenience Centers
Quick Buys
QuikTrip

RaceTrac, Inc.
Raceway
Sprint Foods
Susie Q's
The Parker Companies, Greg Parker
The Parker Companies, Patrick Parker
Thompson's Corner, Inc.
Walthall Oil
Whatley Oil