

SUPPORT EV CHARGING (AM. SUB. HB 33)

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate:

Our companies and associations write in **strong support of provisions in Am. Sub. HB 33** that will ensure a level playing field in the electric vehicle (EV) charging market. We believe that the most efficient and effective way to build out Ohio's EV charging market is by embracing private investment and the competition and innovation that comes with it. Several of the undersigned businesses are those who want to be a part of this expanding market or those who believe this approach will create the best outcomes for all Ohio citizens. Many of us own and operate fuel outlets, convenience stores, grocery stores and restaurants in Ohio, each serving a vital role in their communities as employers, taxpayers and businesses, serving residents and visitors alike.

It is essential that Ohio build a reliable, convenient and customer-driven EV charging market. Passing Am. Sub. HB 33, with the EV charging provisions included, will break down the barriers to private investment in the EV charging marketplace and incentivize fuel retailers and other businesses to invest in Ohio. A system in which electric utilities can pay for EV chargers on the backs of Ohio ratepayers, many of whom do not yet own an EV or utilize the chargers, through riders on electric bills is no way to grow a competitive charging market, particularly when the private sector is willing to invest its own resources.

We respectfully ask you to pass Am. Sub. HB 33 with the following provisions included. These provisions allow for free market competition and improved pricing transparency and service for consumers by:

- **Prohibiting electric utility companies from utilizing riders on Ohioan's electric bills to purchase, own, and operate EV chargers;**
- **Allowing utilities to compete in the EV charging space so long as they do so through a separate subsidiary subject to the same rates, terms, and conditions that apply to all EV charging providers.**

Retailers are not afraid of competition. If power companies want to be in the EV charging business, let them, but not with an advantage that keeps others out of the market. Successful passage of Am. Sub. HB 33 will ensure that this market develops in a competitive manner and send an extraordinary signal to many of the industries below that it is safe to invest in EV charging stations in the state of Ohio.

We are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charge Ahead Partnership
Ohio Conservative Energy Forum
Ohio Energy and Convenience Association
Ohio Grocers Association
Casey's General Stores

Circle K
Hebron Truckomat
InnErVations
The Love's Family of Companies
Miller Electric Company

Red E Charge
Reid Petroleum
Sheetz
Smart Energy 360