

SUPPORT EV CHARGING (SB 502)

Dear Members of the Oklahoma State Legislature:

Our companies and associations write in **strong support of SB 502**, authored by Senator Chuck Hall. We believe that the most efficient and effective way to build out Oklahoma's electric vehicle (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. Many of us own and operate fuel outlets, convenience stores, grocery stores and restaurants in Oklahoma, each serving a vital role in our community as employers, taxpayers and businesses, serving residents and visitors alike.

It is essential that Oklahoma build a reliable, convenient and customer-driven EV charging market. Passing SB 502 will break down the barriers to private investment in the EV charging marketplace. This will incentivize fuel retailers and other businesses to invest in Oklahoma and build out an EV charging network that will meet the needs and satisfy the expectations of Oklahoma EV drivers. Having a system dominated by a government-sanctioned monopoly using money from captive ratepayers is no way to grow a competitive charging market, particularly when the private sector is willing to invest its own resources into this market.

With the federal government preparing to spend \$66 million in Oklahoma over the next five years to help install EV charging stations, the time to act is now. **We respectfully ask you to pass SB 502.** This legislation allows for free market competition and improved pricing transparency and service for consumers by:

- **Codifying retailers' ability to resell electricity without being regulated as a power company;**
- **Prohibiting electric utility companies from using ratepayer funds to purchase, own and operate commercial EV chargers;**
- **Establishing a level playing field by setting a standard set of rules and rates for all EV charging competitors; and**
- **Requiring electric utilities to establish a fair and transparent volumetric rate (based on amount used) for electricity.**

This legislation will codify the Oklahoma Corporation Commission ruling that allows charging station owners to resell electricity without being regulated as a utility, providing necessary certainty to potential investors in EV charging. Additionally, without a change in policy, there is an ongoing threat of regulated electric utilities making use of their status as monopolies to gain a competitive edge over private businesses. Electric utilities can do this by charging all ratepayers – regardless of income or whether they drive an EV – more money to underwrite their investment in charging stations, imposing unnecessary and regressive costs on ratepayers while also preventing investments by the private sector. Finally, this legislation will ensure that archaic rate structures are replaced by electric rates for EV charging which are predictable and facilitate competition, much like the liquid fuels market does today.

Retailers are not afraid of competition. If power companies want to be in the EV charging business, let them, but not with a competitive advantage that keeps others out of the market. Successful passage of SB 502 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 Oklahoma.

We are grateful for your consideration.

Charge Ahead Partnership
Oklahoma Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (OPMCA)
Casey's General Stores Inc.
Circle K
Hutch's

Jiffy Trip
Kum & Go
Love's Family of Companies
QuikTrip
OnCue Marketing LLC