

SUPPORT EV CHARGING (SB 1002/HB 3508)

Dear Members of the Texas State Legislature:

Our companies and associations write in [strong support of SB 1002 and HB 3508](#), authored by Senator Charles Schwertner and Representative Ana Hernandez respectively. We believe that the most efficient and effective way to build out Texas' electric vehicle (EV) charging market is by embracing private investment and the inherent 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 own and operate fuel outlets, convenience stores, grocery stores and restaurants in Texas, each serving a vital role in their communities as employers, taxpayers and businesses, serving residents and visitors alike.

It is essential that Texas build a reliable, convenient and customer-driven EV charging market that is based upon fairness and a competitive, level playing field. Passing this legislation will break down a major barrier to private investment in the EV charging marketplace and incentivize fuel retailers and other businesses to invest in Texas and build out an EV charging network that will meet the needs and satisfy the expectations of Texas 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 \$407 million in Texas over the next five years to help install EV charging stations, the time to act is now. [We respectfully ask you to pass SB 1002 and HB 3508](#). This legislation allows for free market competition and improved pricing transparency and service for consumers by:

- **Restricting electric, transmission and distribution utilities from using ratepayer funds to subsidize their own EV charging stations.**
- **Requiring any utility that does offer EV charging to only do so through a separate subsidiary.**

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.

Retailers are not afraid of competition; in fact, they welcome it on an open, level playing field. If Texas' electric utilities want to compete in the EV charging business, let them, but not with an anti-competitive advantage that keeps others out of the market. Passage of SB 1002 and HB 3508 will ensure the Texas EV charging market develops in a competitive manner and sends an extraordinary signal to many of the industries below that it is safe to invest in the state of Texas.

We are grateful for your consideration.

