

Contact: Ryan McKinnon  
703-772-0123

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## **Bill to spark the growth of EV charging marketplace in Arizona Legislature attracts bipartisan support**

*Senate Bill 1637 would expand the state's electric vehicle charging network.*

PHOENIX – Arizona's emerging electric vehicle (EV) charging marketplace could grow significantly, thanks to legislation filed Monday by Sen. Frank Carroll, R-Sun City West, and supported by a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers. Senate Bill 1637 would spur private investment in this growing field by preventing investor-owned utilities from using monopoly tactics that discourage private investment.

The legislation provides entrepreneurs and businesses with opportunity to invest without having to unfairly compete with a monopoly, while also protecting Arizona's electric utility customers from being forced to subsidize utility-owned EV chargers.

As EVs grow in popularity, Arizona has needed more high-speed EV charging. Unfortunately, private businesses hoping to offer this service have been unable to invest with confidence, as the state's investor-owned utilities have sought to raise consumers' power bills to pay for utility-owned chargers.

"Arizona has countless private businesses that are ideally situated to offer EV charging, but these entities have been reluctant to invest because of the threat of unfair competition from an investor-owned utility," Carroll said. "This bill assures investors and entrepreneurs that their own power company won't try to put them out of business. This bill is good for business, good for the environment and good for all Arizonans."

The proposal came with signatures of support from both Republicans and Democrats in the Arizona legislature.

"As we work towards achieving Arizona's clean energy goals, we should welcome the businesses that want to offer EV charging, rather than deterring them," said Rep. Consuelo Hernandez, D-Tucson.

"Forcing vulnerable populations to pay for utility-owned charging stations makes no sense when there are private businesses wanting to invest their own money," said Rep. Lydia Hernandez, D-Phoenix. "This bill protects our working families from ever-increasing utility bills and will create an environment that is attractive to EV charging investment."

Senate Bill 1637 aims to create the necessary market reforms through two key provisions. The legislation would:

- Prohibit electric utilities as well as transmission and distribution utilities from using ratepayer funds to subsidize their own EV charging stations.
- Allow utilities to offer EV charging, but only through a separate subsidiary.

"In order for Arizona's EV charging market to grow, it must be free from utility interference," said Jay Smith, executive director of Charge Ahead Partnership, a coalition of businesses, individuals and organizations working to expand the nation's EV charging marketplace. "We applaud Sen. Carroll for crafting legislation that lifts the major barriers that deter private investment in commercial EV charging. Similar legislation in other states has passed with robust bipartisan support, and we are pleased to see Arizona lawmakers coming together to support this commonsense policy."

*To learn more about **Charge Ahead Partnership (CAP)** and join our efforts to help expand America's EV charging network please visit [www.chargeaheadpartnership.com](http://www.chargeaheadpartnership.com). In addition to joining CAP you can stay connected with us by following us on social media on Twitter at [@EV\\_ChargeAhead](https://twitter.com/EV_ChargeAhead), Facebook at [@ChargeAheadPartnership](https://facebook.com/ChargeAheadPartnership) and on Instagram at [@EVChargeAhead](https://instagram.com/EVChargeAhead).*