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EV charging coalition calls for regulators to reject FPL attempt to fund EV charging network through ratepayer increases

TALLAHASSEE – Charge Ahead Partnership calls for the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) to reject Florida Power and Light's (FPL) request to make the utility's electric vehicle (EV) charging program permanent. FPL is using ratepayer funds to build, own and operate EV charging stations throughout the state, despite the fact that private retailers and investors are eager to fund this growing market.

In 2021, the utility received FPSC approval to spend up to \$100 million on high-speed EV charging stations, making Florida home to one of the largest utility-owned fast charging networks in the country. FPL's recent rate case includes a request to indefinitely extend its \$100 million charger operation, along with establishing a tariff to guarantee the utility can use ratepayer funds to undercut the private marketplace by selling EV charging below market rates. FPL claims that the cost of their fast chargers will be fully offset by the revenue they generate over the course of their usable life, despite FPL data showing that the program has not been profitable for the past three years.

"If granted, FPL's request will continue to place the burden of funding Florida's EV charging network largely on captive FPL customers," said Charge Ahead Partnership Executive Director Jay Smith. "The majority of these customers do not own an EV, and many cannot afford continued rate increases, especially to subsidize a service they will not use and that private industry is trying to provide."

State officials declined to use \$198 million in EV charger funding from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program, on the grounds that the public should not be forced to pay for the construction of EV charging networks. Smith is hopeful that the state will not allow FPL to continue to transfer that responsibility to ratepayers and will instead allow private investment to fund industry growth.

"Someone's grandmother on a fixed income shouldn't be paying a higher power bill so that Tesla owners can charge up on the cheap," Smith said. "This cash grab is all the more egregious because there are businesses literally all over the state that want to invest in EV charging for drivers. The demand for EV chargers is there and retailers can meet that need, if they didn't have to compete against a utility. Let businesses fund that marketplace, rather than saddling ratepayers with the costs of FPL's outrageous program."

Charge Ahead Partnership is a coalition of businesses, individuals and organizations advocating for free market solutions to expand the nation's EV charging marketplace.

Facts for Reporting:

- Florida currently has the second-most EVs of any state in the country, creating substantial market demand for reliable and accessible EV charging stations. ⁱ
- In 2021, FPL received authorization to use more than \$100 million in ratepayer funds to build, own and operate a charging network. ⁱⁱ

- FPL is requesting for the PSC to set permanent rates for EV charging through its company-owned chargers at below market rates.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Florida received access to \$198 million in federal funding to distribute through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program, but never released the funds prior to the program's suspension earlier this year.^{iv}

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*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. 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://www.facebook.com/ChargeAheadPartnership) and on Instagram at [@EVChargeAhead](https://www.instagram.com/EVChargeAhead).*

ⁱ <https://afdc.energy.gov/data/10962>

ⁱⁱ Florida PSC Docket No. 20210015-EI, Order No. PSC-2021-0446-S-EI, Final Order Approving 2021 Stipulation and Settlement Agreement, December 2, 2021

ⁱⁱⁱ Docket No. 20250011; Florida Power & Light Rate Case

^{iv} <https://pluginamerica.org/nevi-funding-tracking/>