



Expanding America's EV Charging Network

is positioned to meet drivers' expectations of quality service, safety and affordable, competitive pricing that they have grown accustomed to with the established refueling network. Consumer satisfaction with the refueling experience is essential for the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. The sooner we can provide this experience, the sooner more consumers will be comfortable buying an electric vehicle.

Charge Ahead Partnership believes we can meet this challenge with a fair, efficient, transparent and competitive approach based on the following four tenets:

EFFICIENT EXPANSION

With thousands of established fueling locations spanning the nation, existing fuel retailers can replicate today's fueling experience for EV drivers while ensuring that those drivers will not suffer from "range anxiety." The most efficient, cost-effective path to attaining this goal is for power companies and fuel retailers to work in partnership, with each focused on their core competencies. Power companies are best suited to perform the electric generation development and power grid restructuring work through their regulated monopoly framework. Fuel retailers are best equipped to own and operate electric vehicle charging stations, utilizing their nationwide network of convenient locations to provide transportation energy, including electricity, to America's drivers.



The number of electric vehicles on U.S. roads is projected to reach 18.7 million in 2030, up from 1 million at the end of 2018. Yet a major impediment to the adoption of electric vehicles remains consumer concern about where they can refuel an electric vehicle. It is against this backdrop that federal and state policymakers are looking for solutions to rapidly expand the EV charging network.

The most expeditious, efficient and economical way to achieve these environmental advancements in transportation energy technology is through a competitive, market-based approach that removes barriers to purchasing electric vehicles and meets the needs of today's drivers.

We must ensure that the nation's network of charging locations



ENSURING CUSTOMER FAIRNESS AND EQUITY

Allowing power companies to charge all of their customers more money in their monthly electric bills, regardless of whether they drive an EV, operates as a regressive tax on those who do not drive an EV – particularly those living in lower-income communities. There are more equitable, effective ways of growing the EV charging network. Regulated utilities should not be placing the burden of providing fuel to EV drivers on the backs of hard-working low- and middle-income individuals, many of whom do not own a vehicle much less an EV, particularly when the private sector is willing to foot the bill. We must ensure that all communities – regardless of location or socioeconomic status – are included in the development of an EV charging network, just as there are refueling stations in every community regardless of geography or income.

COMPETITIVE, LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR FUNDING AND REGULATIONS

Private businesses are eager to sell electricity to EV drivers. However, without changes to policy, businesses cannot compete with regulated power companies who have been given a monopoly on the sale of electricity. To create a nationwide charging system, all players must be on equal footing which will ultimately allow competition to drive down prices and increase the quality of services provided to customers. The first step is ensuring that laws and regulations do not regulate charging stations as power companies. Second, public policy should incentivize and leverage private investment in bringing to market more charging stations. Third, utilities should not be able to bill their competitors that sell electricity to EV drivers more than they charge themselves – including through costly “demand charges.” There must be a viable pathway to profitability and the ability to compete on price for any fuel alternative to gain meaningful market share. With the right legal and regulatory framework, the private market can create the infrastructure to serve the millions of EV drivers across the country.



TRANSPARENT, UNIFORM PRICING

The retail fuels market is the most transparent and competitive commodities market in the United States. Consumers can easily see fuel prices and decide where to refuel based on the posted price without having to leave their vehicles. This leads to lower prices for customers. EV drivers should have access to the same competitive, stable and convenient prices that drivers of gas-powered vehicles have enjoyed for decades. The rate charged must be consistent and predictable throughout the country in order for EV charging stations to deliver rates that are competitive with conventional fuels.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHARGE AHEAD PARTNERSHIP AND TO JOIN OUR EFFORT TO EXPAND THE EV CHARGING NETWORK NATIONWIDE, VISIT:

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