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Coalition Launches to Expand Private Investment in America's EV Charging Network

- Group seeks level playing field for retailers to enter EV charging business -

[More than 100 businesses, organizations and individuals](#) today announced the formation of Charge Ahead Partnership, a national coalition dedicated to advancing commonsense, market-based policies that will accelerate the development of the nation's electric vehicle charging network.

Charge Ahead Partnership, which includes the nation's largest fuel retailer and grocer associations, represents a broad coalition of industry partners advancing the policy changes which ensure that they have the ability to sell electricity as fuel under a fair, competitive and transparent process.

"Electric vehicles are here to stay, but the necessary EV charging infrastructure is still in its infancy," said Jay Smith, Executive Director of Charge Ahead Partnership. "Now is the time to develop policies that attract private investment in the EV charging business so that charging an electric vehicle is as easy as refilling your car with gas. A level playing field that incentivizes competition and innovation is the fastest route toward that vision becoming a reality."

Charge Ahead Partnership will advocate for policies that guarantee:

- Electric vehicle drivers have access to the same competitive, stable and convenient prices that drivers of gas-powered vehicles have enjoyed for decades;
- All providers of electric fuel are on equal footing, which will ultimately allow competition to drive down prices and increase the quality of services provided to customers;
- Power companies and fuel retailers work in partnership, with each focused on their core competencies to make certain that the needs of the nation's power grid are addressed and that retailers have the ability to own and operate electric vehicle charging stations;
- Regulated utilities do not place the burden of providing fuel to EV drivers on the backs of low- and middle-income individuals when the private sector is willing to foot the bill.

"The market for electricity to power vehicles needs to be competitive and fair for consumers to get the best deals and for businesses to invest in charging infrastructure," said Paige Anderson, Director of Government Relations, National Association of Convenience Stores.

"Convenience and fuel retailers have already solved range anxiety for gas- and diesel-powered vehicle drivers," Anderson said. "The industry will do the same with electric vehicles if we simply eliminate barriers to ensure that EV charging isn't hit with penalty pricing and give the private market a level playing field."

Charge Ahead Partnership is focused on raising awareness and supporting legislative and regulatory policies in all 50 states to encourage private investment in EV charging.

Specifically, the coalition thinks that policies should require public utility commissions to establish a transparent rate structure for electric vehicle charging that applies to both power companies and private retailers. This effectively creates a wholesale rate for the electricity necessary for charging, and it should encompass both the cost of supplying the electricity and the electricity itself without the penalty fees that utilities impose on third party providers of EV charging services today.

Power companies also should not be allowed to offset the cost of building and operating EV charging stations by passing the expenses on to their monthly customers, a practice known as rate-basing. Utility customers who do not own an EV should not have to pay to help the power company set up EV charging stations. Private retailers can't compete with a publicly regulated monopoly when that entity can eliminate its overhead expenses.

"Retailers are committed to serving their customers and communities nationwide. As more consumers transition to electric vehicles, they are seeking affordable and convenient places to recharge. NRF is excited to support the creation of a safe, reliable and robust EV charging network," said Scot Case, Vice President of Sustainability for the National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association.

"The market dynamics that govern today's retail fuel sector should be replicated to facilitate greater EV charging investment," said NATSO Vice President of Public Affairs Tiffany Wlazlowski Neuman. "Creating a sustainable market for private investment requires that all participants in EV refueling face the same competitive risks and the same pricing for the electricity needed to charge vehicles. Range anxiety does not exist for drivers of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles. Widespread availability of DC fast chargers at existing refueling locations will inevitably make consumers more comfortable purchasing EVs."

"With thousands of chargers located across the country, Blink is excited to work with the Charge Ahead Partnership," said Rebecca Gutierrez, Vice President of Marketing for Blink, one of the country's largest owners, operators, and providers of electric vehicle charging equipment and services. "Blink is actively innovating the next generation of EV chargers with the most advanced technology. The Charge Ahead Partnership is a positive step forward for the future of the EV industry."

"Many of our members across the country are proud to offer refueling services to our customers to go along with meeting their grocery needs. It is essential to our businesses, our employees, and our customers that we are able to provide similar refueling services to EV owners, which current regulations around the country make difficult or not feasible," said Chris Jones, Senior Vice President of Government Relations & Counsel for the National Grocers Association.

[Members of the coalition](#) include grocery stores, convenience stores, fuel retailers, truckstops and travel plazas, and electric vehicle charging companies. National trade associations that have joined the partnership include the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), the National Grocers Association (NGA), the National Retail Federation (NRF), NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops, and SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers.

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