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## Statement Regarding House Committee Passage of Electric Vehicle Charging Legislation (HB 737)

Jay Smith, Executive Director of Charge Ahead Partnership, issued the following statement regarding passage of HB 737 in House Committee on Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy related to electric vehicle charging in Florida.

"I want to applaud Representative David Borrero and the committee members that supported HB 737 to grow the number of EV chargers in Florida. With a 13-3 vote this morning, the committee sent a strong message that the Sunshine State is ready to lead the country in allowing the free-market and private investment to bring EV chargers to more communities. This legislation would remove barriers for more businesses to own and operate EV chargers so that recharging a vehicle is as seamless as refueling a gas-powered vehicle is today. This is exciting news for Floridians who own an EV or are contemplating purchasing an EV but have hesitated doing so because of insecurities about where to charge."

HB 737 and its Senate companion bill (SB 920) encourage private investment to expand the EV charging network in Florida. Specifically, the bills:

- Require the PSC to adopt competitively neutral rules for a robust and reliable electric vehicle transportation electrification plan which includes fair, reasonable and transparent electricity pricing for EV charging.
- Create a competitive, level playing field by prohibiting rate-basing of EV charger ownership and operation.
- Allow investor-owned utilities to continue to own and operate EV charging stations, but in a competitive manner under the same regulations and rate structure as other EV charging retailers.

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