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August 3, 2022

Minnesota utility seeks to eliminate any private investment in EV charging, insisting ratepayers foot the bill

-- Xcel is asking ratepayers to pay \$197 million to expand the EV charging marketplace, rather than welcoming private businesses who are willing to risk their own money. --

Charge Ahead Partnership, a coalition of businesses, associations and individuals that share the common goal of developing a charging network for electric vehicles (EVs) across the United States, issued the following statement on Xcel's request to charge Minnesotans \$197 million to expand the state's electric vehicle charging network:

"Xcel's \$197 million plan to have Minnesotans pay for electric vehicle chargers will kill any chance of private investment in EV charging infrastructure in Minnesota. Private businesses are willing to risk their own capital to expand the EV charging network in the state but can't compete with a monopoly like Xcel who can force its ratepayers to cover the company's EV charging costs," said Jay Smith, executive director of Charge Ahead Partnership.

"This ask by Xcel is going to burden millions of Xcel's customers in Minnesota who don't even drive an electric vehicle. It's ridiculous to ask Minnesotans to pay for something that private retailers are willing to pay for themselves. This is simply a bad idea that is going to cause power bills to go up at a time when customers can least afford it."

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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).*