

SUPPORT EV CHARGING (HSB 165)

Dear Members of the Iowa State Legislature:

Our companies and associations write in [strong support of HSB 165](#). We believe that the most efficient and effective way to build out Iowa's electric vehicle (EV) charging market is by embracing private investment and the inherent competition and innovation that comes with it. Several of the undersigned businesses are those who want to be a part of this expanding market. Many of us own and operate fuel outlets, convenience stores, grocery stores and restaurants in Iowa, each serving a vital role in our community as employers, taxpayers and businesses, serving residents and visitors alike.

It is essential that Iowa build a reliable, convenient and customer-driven EV charging market that is based upon fairness and a competitive, level playing field. Passing HSB 165 will break down important policy barriers that exist in Iowa which currently favor monopolies over markets and disincentivize private investment in the EV charging marketplace. Maintaining Iowa's lopsided framework, dominated by government-sanctioned monopolies that use money from captive ratepayers, is no way to grow a competitive charging market, particularly when the private sector is willing to invest its own resources into this market.

[We respectfully ask you to pass HSB 165](#). This legislation allows for free market competition and a level playing field for all participants as well as an improved consumer experience by:

- **Ensuring that utilities who own and operate EV chargers can only do so through a separate and unregulated subsidiary that operates under the same rates, terms and conditions as their competitors.**

Without a change in policy, there is an ongoing threat of regulated electric utilities making use of their status as monopolies to gain a competitive edge over private businesses. Electric utilities can seek to do this by charging all ratepayers – regardless of income or whether they drive an EV – more money to underwrite their charging stations. This anti-competitive environment imposes an unnecessary and unfair cost on many Iowa ratepayers, while also deterring investment by the private sector. This legislation corrects the skewed nature of Iowa's existing policy and establishes a level playing field for EV charging in Iowa by allowing any public utilities who want to compete in the EV charging market to do so through an affiliated entity and under the same terms and conditions as any other private entity.

Retailers are not afraid of competition; in fact, they welcome it on an open, level playing field. If Iowa's utility companies want to compete in the EV charging business, let them, but not with an anti-competitive, monopoly advantage that keeps others out of the market. Passage of HSB 165 will ensure Iowa's market develops in a competitive manner and sends an extraordinary signal to many of the industries below that it is safe to invest in the state of Iowa.

We are grateful for your consideration.

