

Contact: Ryan McKinnon
703-772-0123



May 29, 2024

Ohio EV charging legislation opens door for private investment

-- SB 266 prevents unfair competition from power companies in EV charging market --

COLUMBUS – Charge Ahead Partnership, a coalition of businesses and organizations working to expand the nation’s electric vehicle (EV) charging marketplace, applauds Senator Bill Reineke for his recent legislation that will create a level playing field for EV charging throughout Ohio.

As more and more Ohio drivers are traveling the state in EVs, the need for a competitive free market for EV charging has never been stronger. Reineke’s legislation addresses key issues that have been holding back the growth of Ohio’s EV charging network.

Sen. Reineke’s proposal, Senate Bill 266, would prohibit electric utilities from raising rates on all power customers in order to control the state’s EV charging marketplace. Specifically, SB 266 establishes a five-year prohibition on electric utilities owning and operating ratepayer-funded charging stations. Once that window has expired, a utility may petition the Ohio Public Utility Commission to enter the charging business, but the utility is limited to areas where the EV charging market has not developed, and the utility must give private businesses a right of first refusal on any location.

Power companies using ratepayer funds in other states have undercut competition and discouraged private investment in EV charging, while forcing power customers to pay higher bills.

Jay Smith, executive director of Charge Ahead Partnership, said the legislation gives private entities the reassurance that they can invest in EV charging without fear of being undercut by a utility.

“Sen. Reineke’s bill is a much-needed step for Ohio to develop the EV charging network that EV drivers – both current EV owners and the drivers of the future – will need,” Smith said. “Ohio has retailers and investors throughout the state who are eager to get into the EV charging business – as long as they know they can compete on a level playing field. Thank you, Sen. Reineke, for your leadership.”

The bill also protects Ohio’s power consumers from having to pay higher electricity bills for chargers that many ratepayers will never use.

“Ohio should be encouraging private investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators the chance to get into the business of charging EVs,” Reineke said. “Ohio residents should benefit from competition and supply reliability for a charging network, especially when private businesses can offer a capable and economical business case.”

“Our nation’s most successful marketplaces have been forged through private investment and fierce competition, and the emerging EV charging market should be no different,” Reineke said.

###

*To learn more about **Charge Ahead Partnership (CAP)** and 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 X at [@EV_ChargeAhead](https://twitter.com/EV_ChargeAhead), on LinkedIn at [@ChargeAheadPartnership](https://www.linkedin.com/company/charge-ahead-partnership), on Facebook at [@ChargeAheadPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/ChargeAheadPartnership) and on Instagram at [@EVChargeAhead](https://www.instagram.com/EVChargeAhead).*