

# SUPPORT EV CHARGING (SB 266)

Our companies and associations write **in strong support of SB 266**, sponsored by Senator Bill Reineke. It is essential that Ohio build a reliable, convenient and customer-driven electric vehicle (EV) charging market that is based upon fairness and a competitive, level playing field. The most efficient and effective way to build out this 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 own and operate fuel outlets, convenience stores, grocery stores and restaurants in Ohio, each serving a vital role in their communities as employers, taxpayers and businesses, serving residents and visitors alike.

Passing this legislation will break down several major barriers to private investment in the EV charging marketplace and incentivize fuel retailers and other businesses to invest in EV charging in Ohio. Furthermore, with the federal government currently spending \$140.1 million in Ohio to help install EV charging stations, the time to act is now. **We respectfully ask you to pass SB 266.**

This legislation will allow for free market competition and improved pricing transparency and service for consumers by:

- **Prohibiting electric utilities from using ratepayer funds to purchase, own, and operate EV chargers for the next five years. This will still allow utilities to compete in the EV charging space so long as they do so through a separate subsidiary subject to the same rates, terms, and conditions that apply to all EV charging providers.**
- **Implementing, after the initial five-year window, a right of first refusal process which will ensure private entities have the opportunity to serve certain areas before utilities are authorized to do so and protecting privately owned chargers from unfair competition.**

Without a change in policy, there is an ongoing threat of electric utilities making use of their status as monopolies to gain a competitive edge over private businesses. Retailers are not afraid of competition. If power companies want to be in the EV charging business, let them, but not with an advantage that keeps others out of the market. Successful passage of SB 266 will ensure that this market develops in a competitive manner and send an extraordinary signal to many of the industries below that it is safe to invest in EV charging stations in the state of Ohio.

We are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charge Ahead Partnership