

SUPPORT PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN EV CHARGING (SB 167)

Dear Members of the Kansas Legislature:

Our companies and associations write in **strong support of SB 167**. It is essential that Kansas 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 Kansas, each serving a vital role in their communities.

Passing this legislation will break down major barriers to private investment, which is needed to build out an EV charging network that will best meet the needs of drivers throughout Kansas. **We respectfully ask you to pass SB 167.**

This legislation allows for free market competition and improved pricing transparency by:

- **Preventing electric utilities from using ratepayer funds to cover the costs of owning and operating publicly available EV chargers;**
- **Establishing a level playing field by setting a standard set of rules and rates for all EV charging competitors; and**
- **Requiring electric utilities to establish a fair and transparent rate for electricity used for EV charging.**

Private businesses that would like to install EV charging stations are hesitant to invest due to the prospect of competing with electric utilities, which have the ability to invest in EV charging stations while passing the costs along to their ratepayers. This affords utilities a competitive edge over private businesses that do not have access to this type of risk-free capital. Additionally, electric utilities typically do not bill themselves the same rates for electricity for their own charging stations that they bill for charging stations owned by private businesses.

This bill would prevent electric utilities from using ratepayer funds to compete in the EV charging market and require them to do so through a separate, unregulated subsidiary subject to the same rates, terms, and conditions as private entities. This will level the playing field and empower private entities to invest in this emerging market. Additionally, this legislation will ensure that electric utilities create rates for EV charging providers based on how much electricity their chargers consume rather than demand charges, which are unpredictable and costly fees based on the highest level of energy consumed in a given month.

Successful passage of SB 167 will ensure that Kansas' EV charging market develops in a competitive manner. Additionally, it will send an extraordinary signal to many of the industries below that it is safe to invest in EV charging stations in the state of Kansas.

Charge Ahead Partnership