



Before the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

HB 96 – Support Testimony of Eric McCrum, Sr. Manager of EV & Energy Programs, Sheetz, Inc.

Good afternoon, Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify in support of the EV fast charging provisions within House Bill 96. My name is Eric McCrum and I am the Senior Manager of EV & Energy programs for Sheetz, Inc. I am here on behalf of Sheetz and Americans for Affordable Clean Energy, an organization that includes several forward-thinking fuel retailers who are actively exploring electric vehicle fast-charging investment opportunities in Ohio at our existing refueling locations across the state.

Sheetz operates over 775 stores located throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions. In Ohio, Sheetz has 116 stores and employs 3,686 people. We have a proven track record of deploying EV chargers at our retail locations, both along highways and those that serve urban and suburban areas. We intend to continue to make that investment as the market develops to best meet the needs of drivers.

This legislation will provide certainty for companies like Sheetz who want to compete in this market but are concerned about making the substantial investment that EV fast-charging services requires without guardrails in place to protect that investment from being undercut by EV fast chargers owned and operated by Ohio's electric utilities.

To be clear, this legislation does not prohibit an electric utility from owning or operating a charging station, but it does place strict limitations on their ability to use ratepayer funds for such fast charging stations. It does not make sense to use ratepayer dollars to fund EV fast charging infrastructure that the private sector is ready and willing to fund with their own capital and at their own risk. Furthermore, we should limit the burden on Ohio electric utility ratepayers struggling to pay their power bill from also having to pay for expensive equipment that they may never use.

Fuel retailers and electric utilities are natural partners when it comes to building out Ohio's EV fast charging network. This bill will facilitate that partnership by directing fuel retailers and electric companies alike to stay in their own lanes and to focus on their core competencies; with fuel retailers focusing on providing a

positive customer experience for EV drivers and electric utilities focusing on generating power and delivering that power to EV fast charging stations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Senator Reineke for his leadership in this space. The EV charging language in HB96 is identical to Senator Reineke's SB 106, which Sheetz and AACE also support.

Sheetz stands ready to continue to invest and innovate within this space, but what we need is good public policy that ensures fair competition. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on this public policy issue and I encourage you to support this legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee.