



March 27, 2025

The Honorable Shane Wilkin
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Support for SB 106 – Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Station Ownership

Dear Senator Wilkin,

On behalf of the Ohio Energy & Convenience Association (OECA), which represents Ohio's fuel retailers, convenience stores, and energy marketers, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 106. This legislation provides a clear and necessary regulatory framework for the ownership and operation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, ensuring fair market competition and consumer access to charging infrastructure.

SB 106 establishes essential guidelines that prevent certain industries from unfairly monopolizing EV charging services, thereby fostering private-sector investment in charging infrastructure. By requiring that utilities operate EV charging stations through separate affiliates and prohibiting cross-subsidization from ratepayer funds, this bill levels the playing field for independent businesses, including Ohio's convenience stores and fuel retailers, who are eager to expand EV charging options while continuing to provide the fuel of choice for their customers.

Furthermore, the bill strikes a responsible balance by including a right of first refusal process, which will ensure that private entities have the opportunity to serve underserved communities before utilities are authorized to do so. This provision helps ensure that rural and urban communities are not left behind in Ohio's buildout of EV infrastructure, preserving free-market competition and addressing gaps in charging access.

OECA believes SB 106 is a crucial step toward a sustainable and competitive EV charging market in Ohio. We urge you and your colleagues to support this bill and help create an environment where all businesses have the opportunity to invest in and provide EV charging solutions for Ohioans.

We thank the bill's sponsor, Senator Reineke, and you for your leadership and commitment to advancing Ohio's energy future. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Boehnke", is written in a cursive style.

Alex T. Boehnke
Executive Director