



March 25, 2025

To: Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
From: Jacob Olson, Executive Director of Public Policy, -- RaceTrac, Inc.
RE: SB 106

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member DeMora, and Members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent of SB 106. As a company that recently expanded into the state, we believe that the best way to build out Ohio's electric vehicle (EV) charging market is through a competitive, market-based solution protecting taxpayers and leveraging the free market. We look forward to being a part of this expanding market to create affordable and convenient charging opportunities for all Ohioans and believe fuel retailers are uniquely positioned to be on the forefront of growing the EV charging market in Ohio.

As more Ohioans make the switch to EVs, the creation of a reliable and convenient EV charging market becomes more and more pressing. SB 106 addresses the inherent advantages Electric Distribution Utilities (EDUs) have as regulated monopolies when competing with private investors in EV charging. Currently there is nothing to prevent electric utilities from owning and operating public EV fast charging stations in direct competition with private EV charging providers. Private businesses cannot be expected to compete with a competitor that has access to a guaranteed return on investment and access to funding through its captive ratepayers.

SB 106 is consensus legislation appropriately balancing the role of private businesses and EDUs in the market for EV charging services. Specifically, the legislation will allow EDUs to own and operate charging station as long as they do it without any competitive advantages not available to private businesses. Putting guardrails around EDU ownership of EV charging stations will promote robust competition that will ultimately benefit consumers. SB 106 will facilitate a business environment encouraging businesses to place private capital at risk on a level playing field, which in turn will force stakeholders to work collaboratively to develop market-oriented, consumer-focused solutions for EV charging.

SB 106 is a compromise effort between stakeholders in Ohio's EV charging market with the intent to create statutory certainty that will promote private investment in EV charging infrastructure. Passage of this legislation will ensure the charging marketplace develops in a competitive manner.

We urge your support of SB 106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacob Olson", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Jacob Olson
Executive Director of Public Policy
RaceTrac, Inc.