

AMERICANS *for* AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY

March 25, 2025

To: Senate Public Utilities Committee
From: Robert Baratta, Executive Director – Americans for Affordable Clean Energy (AACE)
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 proponent testimony for SB 106. My name is Robert Baratta and I am the Executive Director of Americans for Affordable Clean Energy (AACE). AACE is a coalition of some of the most sophisticated and forward-thinking fuel retailers in Ohio and across the country. AACE believes that the best way to develop Ohio's electric vehicle (EV) charging network is by encouraging private investment and free market competition and the innovation that comes with both. Fuel retailers across Ohio provide an essential service to customers by ensuring the availability of automotive refueling services in safe, convenient locations at competitive, transparent prices. Retail fuel stations in Ohio have a long history of meeting customer refueling needs and we would like to continue that mission as more of our customers choose electricity for their preferred transportation fuel.

With more EV drivers traveling to and through Ohio, a reliable, convenient EV fast charging market is becoming increasingly important for commerce and economic development. Indeed, Ohio sits on a major national transportation corridor. However, there are barriers to private investment that must be addressed in order to encourage the development of a self-sustaining, competitive charging market.

We thank Senator Reineke for introducing SB 106, which addresses a key barrier that is discouraging private investment in Ohio. Specifically, SB 106 addresses the competitive advantage of Ohio's Electric Distribution Utilities (EDUs), which can pass the costs of installing and operating EV fast chargers broadly to all ratepayers and be shielded from the usual risks associated with typical business operations and market dynamics. No private sector company can compete with a competitor that can recover their costs from captive ratepayers while collecting a guaranteed rate of return.

Ohio has an opportunity to establish a comprehensive market solution for the entire state that will encourage private investment in the EV fast charging business while also ensuring that Ohio's economy keeps pace with the evolving transportation fueling sector. This approach will ensure that Ohio's EV fast charging market develops with the same levels of competition and innovation that have defined the state's economy for generations.

We urge your support of this consensus legislation and look forward to engaging with you to enact rational public policy. Other states are moving in this direction. We hope Ohio does the same.

Sincerely,

Robert Baratta

Robert Baratta
Executive Director
Americans for Affordable Clean Energy