

February 9, 2021

Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities

RE: Senate Bill 133

Members,

I am a lifelong Kansas resident and business owner. Over the years, I have built and operated multiple businesses based out of Kansas doing work across the country. These mainly included contracting companies in electrical and telecommunications. We performed energy efficiency projects and upgraded many of the cell towers in Kansas to 4G technology.

Last year we established EV Build LLC to address the impending need of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. Electric vehicle adoption requires a thoughtful, comprehensive and aggressive approach to charging stations. Our goal is to build out corridors and fill in 'gaps' with high speed universal charging stations to increase the public's confidence with electric vehicles.

We are currently building a network of these stations in Colorado including Burlington, Limon and Idaho Springs. Many Kansas EV users need these locations as they travel west from our state. We are investing significantly in this infrastructure across the country.

I support Senate Bill 133 which, in part, draws the distinction that electric vehicle charging stations are NOT regulated utilities. This clarification is important and matches the language that 35 states have adopted.

This is important because it creates a flexible yet consistent experience for the electric vehicle driver (both consumer and fleet). Some vehicles are able to charge at a very high rate in a short period of time. Others take longer to charge. Combining both time and consumption charges creates a fair pricing structure for all users.

Absent of the clarification that electric vehicle charging stations are not public utilities, development of charging stations in Kansas will lag behind most of the country. Kansas plays a very important role in shipping. Electrification of fleets is accelerating. Intermodals, other shipping hubs and large fleet operations may be hindered as they move towards electrified fleets.

While admittedly focused on the measured growth of our company and the industry, I am also an enthusiastic advocate for Kansas. If there is anything I can do to help, I can be reached at (913)208-2880 or jim@ev-build.com.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee.



Jim Frank
CEO

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Leading the Charge!