



SIERRA CLUB

LONE STAR CHAPTER

To: The Honorable Ken King, Chair
Members, House Committee on Licensing and Regulation
Re: HB 3343, Relating to the regulation of electric vehicle supply equipment.
From: Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club, cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org, 512-888-9991

March 22, 2023

Dear Chairman King and members,

The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter supports HB 3343 which would require the state of Texas to create an inspection and regulatory framework for electric vehicle supply equipment. Any person who has driven an electric vehicle in Texas and relied on public charging stations realizes that the quality, safety and availability of these stations are haphazard at best, and the lack of basic standards and certainty has likely created barriers to the further use of electric vehicles. Many drivers end up choosing to install expensive chargers at their homes and forgo using public chargers precisely because of their unreliability. The fact is no one is adequately regulating electric vehicle supply equipment and we do not believe that the Department of Agriculture is the right agency to regulate such equipment.

Under HB 3343, TDLR (as well as the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation) would have the authority to adopt national standards and enforce compliance, including standards related to the accuracy of the measuring devices located inside the electric vehicle charging stations. This will provide electric vehicle owners assurance they are receiving accurate electric fuel charges when refueling at commercial charging stations in Texas.

The bill authorizes registration, requires fees, requires inspections, requires TDLR to respond to complaints, and assures compliance with these standards. This is an excellent bill and specifically exempts electric vehicle supply equipment that is only intended for private use. The Sierra Club is appreciative of the efforts of the Chairman in proposing this important improvement so that customers know what they are paying for and can have some assurance that electric vehicle charging stations will actually work!

We would note that while the Department of Agriculture did begin rulemaking and a stakeholder process on some of the issues contained in this bill, the initial proposal would have created large barriers to development of a regulatory framework and we believe that TDLR (and TCLR) are a more logical home for EV supply equipment standards than the TDA.