



SIERRA CLUB

LONE STAR CHAPTER

To: The Honorable Dr. Charles Schwertner, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Business and Commerce
Re: SB 1002 Relating to the operation of electric vehicle charging stations.
From: Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club, cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org, 512-888-9991

March 21, 2023

Dear Senator Schwertner and members,

The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter supports SB 1002 which would set the standards and rules around ownership of electric vehicle charging stations by utility companies. Last year, the Sierra Club commented on and participated in the plan by TXDOT to seek \$408 million in federal funds allocated under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan. An important aspect of this plan is to rely on private entities to partner with state government so we use private companies for any matching costs.

Having a framework in place to support private entity support combined with federal funding and utility infrastructure will stimulate the growth of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. It is important that utilities not be in the direct business of selling electrons in the competitive area of Texas through charging stations, but that function be done through separate entities.

Sierra Club appreciates that the bill allows for the role of electric utilities, transmission and distribution utilities, competitive entities, and the PUC to fulfill in supporting the growth of infrastructure for electric vehicle charging. In general the bill prohibits direct utility ownership in the competitive market, but allows for infrastructure investment to make the grid ready for electric vehicles.

Electric vehicles are no longer a niche market, but a growing reality and SB 1002 provides an important regulatory framework.