March 8, 2019

Mr. John Couture, Chair
Board of Building Regulations and Standards

Dear Mr. Couture,

We write to express strong support for including “EV-ready” wiring for new construction in the State Building Code.

The proposed EV-ready wiring provision is critical to the future of EVs (Electric Vehicles) in Massachusetts and, per Chapter 448 of the Acts of 2016, well within the Board’s authority to adopt.

As documented in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Energy Plan and the Future of Transportation Commission Report (both released in December 2018), achieving widespread electrification of the transportation sector is critical to reducing the state’s reliance on fossil fuels and meeting our legal obligations under the Global Warming Solutions Act. To this end, the Commonwealth in 2014 committed to the goal of having 300,000 EVs on our roads by 2025. This commitment has been reaffirmed by the Baker Administration and by the Legislature with the passage of Chapter 448 of the Acts of 2016 (An Act Promoting Zero Emission Vehicle Adoption).

One current barrier to greater EV adoption is the cost of installing EV charging stations. The proposed EV-ready wiring provision is a practical and affordable solution to this problem. For a typical residential property, EV-ready wiring adds no more than $300 to new construction costs per EV parking spot, but saves an average of $3,500 in avoided retrofit costs when a charging station is installed. For commercial construction, EV-ready wiring adds an estimated $1,650 per EV parking space, but can save up to $7,000 on the cost of installing each charging station.

The substantial cost savings that result from EV-ready wiring have led a diverse set of jurisdictions including California, Hawaii, Washington State, Denver, and New York City to adopt building code provisions similar to the one currently before the Board.

The EV-ready wiring provision will make charging station installation a significantly more affordable choice for Massachusetts residents and businesses, speed the adoption of EVs statewide, and help the state meet its Global Warming Solutions Act obligations, all at a minimal upfront cost.

We urge the Board to adopt it.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Hecht  
State Representative  
29th Middlesex

Harriette Chandler  
State Senator  
First Worcester

Maria Robinson  
State Representative  
6th Middlesex

Bradford Hill  
State Representative  
4th Essex

Carolyn Dykema  
State Representative  
8th Middlesex

Michael Finn  
State Representative  
6th Hampden

Kay Khan  
State Representative  
11th Middlesex

Linda Dean Campbell  
State Representative  
15th Essex

Jay Livingstone  
State Representative  
8th Suffolk

Dylan Fernandes  
State Representative  
Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket

Lindsay Sabadosa  
State Representative  
1st Hampshire

John Lawn  
State Representative  
10th Middlesex

Jack Patrick Lewis  
State Representative  
7th Middlesex

Patrick Joseph Kearney  
State Representative  
4th Plymouth

James Eldridge  
State Senator  
Middlesex and Worcester

Andres Vargas  
State Representative  
3rd Essex

Denise Provost  
State Representative  
27th Middlesex

Anne Gobi  
State Senator  
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex

Mike Connolly  
State Representative  
26th Middlesex

Lori Ehrlich  
State Representative  
8th Essex

Joan Meschino  
State Representative  
3rd Plymouth

Kevin Honan  
State Representative  
17th Suffolk

Tricia Farley Bouvier  
State Representative  
3rd Berkshire
James Hawkins
State Representative
2nd Bristol

Carmine Gentile
State Representative
13th Middlesex

Jeffrey Roy
State Representative
10th Norfolk

Michael Barrett
State Senator
Third Middlesex

Tommy Vitolo
State Representative
15th Norfolk

Michelle Ciccolo
State Representative
15th Middlesex

Mindy Domb
State Representative
3rd Hampshire

Ruth Balser
State Representative
12th Middlesex

Joanne Comerford
State Senator
Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester

Natalie Higgins
State Representative
4th Worcester

Steven Ultrino
State Representative
33rd Middlesex

Paul Mark
State Representative
2nd Berkshire

Mary Keefe
State Representative
15th Worcester District

Jason Lewis
State Senator
Fifth Middlesex

Barry Finegold
State Senator
Second Essex and Middlesex

Tami Gouveia
State Representative
14th Middlesex

Patricia Jehlen
State Senator
Second Middlesex

Sarah Peake
State Representative
4th Barnstable

Aaron Vega
State Representative
5th Hampden

David Rogers
State Representative
24th Middlesex

David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf
State Representative
17th Worcester

Sean Garballey
State Representative
23rd Middlesex

Josh Cutler
State Representative
6th Plymouth

Brian Murray
State Representative
10th Worcester District