

Statement of Ted Augustine, President of Triplett, Inc.  
Senate Committee on Utilities  
Oral Testimony in Support of 2025 SB 167  
February 11, 2025

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 167. My name is Ted Augustine and I am the President of Triplett, Inc which owns and operates 24/7 travel stores, based in Salina.

We have been operating since 1963. 24/7 has 10 locations along the I-70 and I-135 corridors throughout Kansas. We have a proven track record of deploying EV fast chargers at our retail locations, and we hope to continue to make that investment as the market develops.

SB 167 will provide certainty for companies like 24/7 who want to enter this market but have concerns about making the substantial capital investment to construct EV fast chargers without guardrails to protect their investment from being undercut by electric utility-owned EV fast chargers.

Electric utilities have the ability to underwrite the costs of EV charging stations to their ratepayers, while collecting a guaranteed rate of return. Private companies, such as 24/7 travel stores do not have access to this type of risk-free capital. Furthermore, many electric utilities bill private EV fast charging station owners more money for electricity than their own cost to power their utility-owned chargers. This legislation would ensure that electric utilities charge themselves the same rates they offer to other private businesses. Ensuring all EV fast charging providers have access to the same electricity rates on a level playing field is a critical guardrail to ensure fair competition. In order to implement this policy, SB 167 would require electric utilities to own EV fast charging stations through an unregulated subsidiary, which would ensure they could compete fairly in the free market without an unfair pricing advantage.

Fuel retailers and electric utilities are natural partners when it comes to building out Kansas' EV fast charging station network. This bill will facilitate that partnership by directing fuel retailers and electric utilities alike to focus on their core competencies; with fuel retailers providing a positive customer experience for EV drivers and electric utilities generating power and delivering that power to EV fast charging stations.

24/7 stands ready to continue to invest and innovate within this space, but what we need is good public policy that ensures fair competition. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important topic and I encourage you to support SB 167. I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

My contact information is below:

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