May X, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE

Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FHWA Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program – Corridor Program**

Secretary Buttigieg:

As the transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, investing in medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be an essential part of the country’s overall transportation decarbonization strategy. Freight movement in Tennessee relies heavily on I-24, I-40, and I-75, as these interstates connect Tennessee’s major metropolitan areas as well as regional and national freight hubs.

According to a 2023 American Transportation Research Institute report, seven of the 100 most congested truck bottlenecks in the U.S. are located along I-24, I-40, and I-75 in Tennessee, demonstrating the need for zero-emission trucks to reduce emissions while idling, as well as a need for sufficient charging infrastructure to address decreased range resulting from time spent in traffic. As companies that transport freight through Tennessee electrify their fleets, the major interstates in the state will need publicly accessible, fast charging infrastructure that can accommodate medium- and heavy-duty trucks to ensure the continued, efficient movement of goods.

Recognizing this need, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Energy Programs (TDEC OEP), the Governor-designated State Energy Office, is applying for funding under Notice of Funding Opportunity Number 693JJ323NF00004, CFI Discretionary Grant Program / Corridor Program, to build publicly accessible electric charging infrastructure along key Tennessee freight corridors for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. [ORGANIZATION NAME], as a primary user of Tennessee’s interstate corridors for freight transportation, strongly supports Tennessee’s proposed application.

[INSERT 1-2 SENTENCE DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS **1)** YOUR ROLE IN USING MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES FOR THE DELIVERY OF GOODS IN TENNESSEE, AND **2)** YOUR ORGANIZATION’S FLEET ELECTRIFICATION GOALS]

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE]

[SIGNATORY FULL NAME]

[SIGNATORY TITLE]

[COMPANY NAME]

[SIGNATORY PHONE]

[SIGNATORY EMAIL]