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To: Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
From: Toni Herkert, Government Affairs Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: October 20, 2021
RE: AB 588 – Fees, Installation, and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Chairman Kuglitsch, Vice Chair Steffen, and members of the Energy and Utilities Committee,

My name is Toni Herkert, and I am the new Government Affairs Director for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, representing nearly 600 municipalities, both large and small. I apologize for not being present at the hearing, but the League is hosting our Annual Conference in Green Bay this week. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of AB 588. The League's interest in this bill is to keep the doors open for flexibility as electric vehicle charging stations increase in demand. Municipal locations are some of the most ideal, flexible, and centrally located for consumers whether they are residents, visitors, or tourists.

Most people can acquire level one charging at their homes, in fact several new subdivision developments are installing chargers in garages. However, many people who rent their homes cannot charge at home and if their place of employment does not have a charging facility, the lack of charging equipment makes electric vehicle ownership problematic. A partial solution for renters is to install EV charging outlets on streetlight poles in areas near apartment complexes or multifamily dwellings. For instance, Kansas City, Missouri plans to install 60 charging outlets on streetlight poles by the end of 2021. Another option is to place charging stations in parks close to multifamily residential units.

EV drivers who do not have access to a charging outlet at their home or work rely on public charging outlets at convenient locations. These locations could include a grocery store or other shopping area where they park regularly; a downtown or other area with restaurants; a school; library; or at a park where they recreate. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities believes that several of these charging areas where people congregate would be municipally owned and the installation of charging stations on municipal property could provide an economic asset for our downtown businesses. Tourism is a big business in Wisconsin with an overall economic impact of \$22.2 billion. In our community's tourist areas, signage at charging stations can provide suggestions about what to do while fueling, including a map showing nearby parks and businesses within a 10-minute walk. Individuals will need to occupy their time while a vehicle is charging and locating charging facilities in downtown districts will revitalize the economic opportunity of our main streets.

Why some interest groups would oppose providing these opportunities to downtown, main street, family run business is concerning. The League adamantly opposes any attempt to remove the ability of a municipality from placing, owning, operating, or leasing an electric vehicle charging station.

The League supports this legislation as it is drafted and asks committee members to vote in favor. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at your convenience at therkert@lwm-info.org.