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May 22, 2019

The Honorable Matt Dolan
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Senate Building, Ground Floor N., Room 041
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan:

On behalf of Great Lakes Truck Driving School, located in Columbia Station, OH, I am writing in strong support of Ohio's Revolving Loan Program. This Program is a valuable source of funding that has enabled many qualified individuals to receive the education through our institution that is critically needed to fulfill in-demand Ohio occupations. Many individuals lack the means to pay for the education needed to enter a promising career. Therefore, we ask you to fully fund the Revolving Loan Program on behalf of those seeking to improve their lives and enter the Ohio workforce.

Over the next decade, the transportation industry will need to hire a total 890,000 new drivers, or an average of 89,000 per year. Replacing retiring truck drivers will be by far the largest factor, accounting for nearly half of new driver hires (45%). The second largest factor will be industry growth, accounting for 33% of new driver hires. Additionally, the construction industry's hiring needs for heavy equipment operators continues to outpace the national growth of all other industries, with a 12% annual growth projection for infrastructure jobs and a 19% growth projection for the oil & gas industry. In order to meet these workforce demands, we urge you to remove, or at least minimize, any funding impediments that may keep your Ohio constituents from seeking a rewarding career in the transportation and construction industries. By fully funding the Ohio Revolving Loan Program, we ensure a robust Ohio workforce, empowered to enter these in-demand careers.

Please let me know if we can provide you with further information to help you understand how important this program is in ensuring a skilled Ohio workforce. I can be reached at 440-236-4364 or by e-mail at mnease@greatlakestds.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Nease", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Nease
Vice President, Development