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April 5, 2022

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry. My name is John Walsh, and I am the CEO and Founder of Endera. We are a technology company specializing in commercial electric vehicles, charging stations, and software solutions. We have a 250,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Ottawa, Ohio, which is gearing up to be a state-of-the-art manufacturing hub for zero-emission electric commercial vehicles including shuttle buses, school buses, and box trucks.

We are proud to be in Ohio and recognize Ohio as a major manufacturing hub in the United States, especially in the auto industry. Across the nation, we're seeing companies like General Motors and Ford announce commitments to manufacturing electric vehicles. Companies like Endera can help Ohio secure a leadership position in EV manufacturing while creating high quality jobs and ample opportunities for training and advancement for Ohioans. We want Ohio to be at the forefront of this industry, and that means jobs for Ohioans.

However, if we are going to attain that leadership position, we need to make sure that the state is taking steps now to ensure that Ohio is not left behind. We need to make sure that we have the proper policy framework to protect and grow this industry and Ohio's interests. SB 307 will help us get there. The funding for factory retooling will incentivize manufacturers to expand their businesses in Ohio and make the transition to EVs, while the workforce development grants will ensure companies like Endera have access to a highly skilled workforce to employ in the jobs that will be coming as we make this transition.

Ohio is currently facing a crossroads. A global transition towards electric vehicles is already underway. We can either allow ourselves to be left behind or embrace the future and continue to be a national leader in the auto industry. We came to Ohio because of the workforce and because Ohio has a historic legacy as an auto manufacturer. We'd like to continue supporting Ohioans by embracing the shift towards electric vehicles. I ask for your support of SB 307, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Walsh', written over a light blue rectangular background.

John Walsh