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Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 43
Senator Jim Hughes
January 20, 2016

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present to you sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 43.

This legislation, if enacted, would establish the Columbus State Logistics Program. The idea for this bill was brought to my attention by Columbus State and Diamond Logistics, a logistics company in my district. Diamond Logistics has been faced with a shortage of drivers over the past few years and are working with Columbus State to try to fill about 2,500 jobs over the next few years with a salary of \$48,000 to \$75,000 dollars. This legislation would make an appropriation to this program of \$2.5 million in both FY 2016 and FY 2017 from the General Revenue Fund. These appropriations are in addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2016-2017 biennium.

These funds would be used to support workforce initiatives through the Columbus State Logistics Program and help to increase the number of qualified workers for an industry that is currently facing a shortage of drivers. The American Trucking Associations (ATA) estimates that the U.S. is short 30,000 truck drivers. Factors driving the shortfall include regulations, relatively low pay, and the fact that fewer young people are interested in getting into the profession.¹

Encouraging economic development and supporting the workforce in Ohio remain a key goal of the Legislature. In addition, programs like Columbus State Logistics will equip our citizens with the tools needed to successfully embark on careers that will positively impact both the individual and also our state by providing more jobs.

Chairman Oelslager and members of the Senate Finance committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 43. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee might have.

¹ There's A Huge Shortage Of Truck Drivers In America — Here's Why The Problem Is Only Getting Worse Mamta Badkar <http://www.businessinsider.com/americas-truck-driver-shortage-2014-7>