

OHIO HOUSE BILL 47 TESTIMONY (PROPONENT)

Chairman Baldrige, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of House Bill 47 this morning. HB 47 is a bill that shows Ohio's willingness to invest in new technologies in our automotive industry that will ensure that as a state, Ohio will not fall behind.

My name is Lori Herf and I am here today to testify on behalf of Lordstown Motors Company. Lordstown Motors is a company looking to electrify the commercial fleet market with our revolutionary Endurance pickup truck, a fully electric full-sized pickup truck capable of producing 600 horsepower through 4 hub motors.

Lordstown Motors purchased the former GM Assembly Plant in Lordstown Ohio just two years ago, and once that plant closed it brought much economic uncertainty and devastation to an entire community. For years, the assembly plant was the economic engine of the community, but even with all of the successes at the plant, decisions for the community were always made outside of the state. Now Lordstown Motors is changing this, the decisions for Lordstown are being made in Lordstown, and we are currently employing 500 individuals marching towards production.

We are in the midst of a transformation in the automobile industry and this is the electrification of the industry. Nearly every major OEM has shared plans to transition to an electric future, while new companies like Lordstown Motors are forming to enter the market. With such a transformation, we currently are lacking in our infrastructure to support this. To truly implement electric vehicles, it is absolutely necessary that we have the correct infrastructure to charge our vehicles.

First, HB 47 shows Ohio's willingness to embrace this new technology. Ohio has long been a leader in the automotive industry, only lagging the state up north in automotive jobs. To retain this position, and hopefully overtake that state, Ohio needs to continue to invest in this new technology. HB 47 will ensure we have the appropriate infrastructure in this entire state, and not just in a couple large cities. By investing in CCS1 and J1772 technologies to charge our vehicles, we will create jobs, and we will ensure all are included in the electric future.

Lordstown Motors is supportive of HB 47, and we would like to thank Representative Mike Loychik for sponsoring this important piece of legislation. Chairman Baldrige, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 47. I am happy to answer any questions that you or members of the committee may have.