



**State Representative
Michael O'Brien**

Sponsor Testimony HR 47

Thank you Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and esteemed members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Resolution 47.

This legislation urges fair consideration for the purchase of electric trucks from Lordstown Motors, the success of which, as many of you know, is vital to the Mahoning Valley.

While those of us who represent the Mahoning Valley are thrilled that Lordstown Motors was able to purchase the site of the former General Motors Lordstown Assembly Complex, we have a long way to go in order to fill the huge financial void left when General Motors closed the plant.

Five hundred Mahoning Valley residents are currently employed at Lordstown Motors, for which we are very happy and grateful. However, more than 5,000 jobs were lost in the Mahoning Valley since 2017 when GM began eliminating shifts and eventually closing their doors.

The heartbreaking stories those former GM employees have shared when they lost their homes, had to relocate their families and find a way to survive the plant's closing are still ongoing. We need to do all we can to support Lordstown Motors and help it grow, so that the Mahoning Valley may begin to prosper again. All this resolution proposes is to give them a fair shot at securing post office contracts. I think it is the least we can do to show our support for this region who lost so much when GM closed, and to give them hope that Lordstown Motors will continue to bring jobs back to the Valley.

Thank you for affording Representative Miller and me the opportunity to provide testimony on House Resolution 47. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have.