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**Committees:**  
Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee  
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Primary & Secondary Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Workforce & Higher Education Committee

**Michael A. Rulli**  
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33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

### **SPONSOR TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 307**

**Senator Michael A. Rulli**

**3/29/22**

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as sponsor of SB 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry. I have worked on this bill for more than a year with over sixty interested parties, many of whom will provide proponent testimony. I have been passionate about EV issues since I joined the Senate; for the people I represent, the automotive industry has been central to many of our lives.

The auto industry is going through a global transition. Manufacturers have pledged to invest \$330 billion on electric vehicle production by 2025. This means they are making decisions right now about where to build new factories and which existing factories will transition to EV production. Companies are making decisions about where the next generation of auto manufacturing jobs will be - I want that to be in Ohio.

Ohio has a lot at stake as this global economic transition happens. We have over 108,000 jobs in auto manufacturing here, and many of those jobs involve making gas vehicles or gas vehicle parts. With so many jobs at risk, it is urgent that we take action now to protect and build on this sector of our economy and make sure Ohio isn't left behind. Protecting Ohio's auto industry for the next generation requires an all-hands-on-deck approach. Therefore, SB 307 (Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry) will attack the issue in four key ways:

#### **1. Invest in workforce development and factory retooling**

- a. Incentives to retool factories to produce EVs and EV parts will signal to automakers that Ohio embraces EVs and attract their investment in our state.
- b. Workforce training builds on our existing strength in the auto industry and supports the growth of quality jobs related to charging and maintaining EVs.

#### **2. Encourage growth in the Ohio EV market through fleet and consumer vehicle incentives**

- a. Incentivizing the adoption of electric vehicles in Ohio demonstrates to the industry that we are committed to remaining a strong partner to auto manufacturers as they shift to EV production.
- b. We want to support automakers that employ Ohioans in well-paying jobs, so it is important to spur EV market growth.

3. **Unlock much-needed investment in EV charging infrastructure**
  - a. To support EV market growth in all parts of the state, especially rural areas, we need more charging infrastructure.
  - b. In states leading the EV transition, electric utilities provide significant investment in charging infrastructure. For Ohio's utilities to invest at a similar level, we must update guidance to the PUCO and establish regulatory certainty.
4. **Create a state EV task force and electrification plan**
  - a. We must keep our finger on the pulse of the global auto industry as it rapidly transitions in order to react quickly and leverage trends for the greatest benefit for Ohio's economy.
  - b. A task force operating at the state level with the right representation from the legislature, relevant state agencies, and other public and private stakeholders would be best positioned to do this.

In January of this year, GM announced a \$7 billion dollar investment in EVs in Michigan that includes 4,000 new jobs. Tennessee and Kentucky will be seeing a combined \$11.4 billion investment and 11,000 new jobs from Ford, announced in September 2021. These are only two of the many EV investments in other states that automakers have already locked in. Ohio needs to act now, or risk being left behind.

SB 307 is a work in progress, and I look forward to working with the committee and stakeholders to create the best bill we can to protect Ohio's economic future. Some of the stakeholders who offered input and are supporting the bill will provide proponent testimony in the next hearing and will be able to share their expertise with the committee. I ask for swift consideration of the bill to match the urgency of protecting our auto sector. Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.