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### Anthony Flores Written Testimony

My name is Anthony Flores. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to tell my story to the Ohio Senate's Energy and Public Utilities Committee.

I am 52 years old. I live in Leipsic and my wife of 32 years and I have six kids and eight grandchildren. I am a welder at Endera Motors in Ottawa. I started at the factory with Metro Titan four years ago. I was happy when Endera acquired the company in 2021, because I'm excited to be part of building American-made electric trucks and buses in my home state! As a father and grandfather, I really like that we'll be cleaning up the air in Ohio, especially with EV school buses.

I've been in the workforce in Ohio for more than 30 years. I had no aspirations to attend college coming out of high school and thought I was "too old to learn new tricks." The truth is, I was very intimidated.

The opportunity to get certified in welding came up when there was a need for it at Endera. After working with me for a while, my supervisor suggested I take on a leadership role, as I enjoy mentoring younger workers. He said the company would cover the costs to get a certificate in welding. Within a few weeks, I started at Apollo in Lima, and eventually earned my welding certificate after about a six-month long program.

Instead of being intimidated, and thanks to support from my boss and co-workers, I jumped in with both feet, and instructors said I was a natural. In fact, they tried to recruit me to train up younger folks there, too, but I said, no, I've got to help build electric buses!

I returned to my station in the factory a certified welder and now hold an American Welders Society Certification for MIG welding. I'm investigating becoming certified in aluminum welding, and the company would cover those costs, too. My co-workers are also inspired by my story and are getting trained. Some are getting certificates in general automotive and 12-volt electrical training for making our vehicles more advanced. Even the engineers are taking Solidworks (3D Modeling) classes to further their skills to help us design and create better electric buses.

These certification programs have been so helpful for me and the team I work with at Endera, and it's important that they have the equipment and training programs they need to train us on how to work on electric buses. This bill will make sure those resources are available, and I hope that the legislature supports our work and provides assistance to make sure we have all the skills we need to make Ohio a leader in this industry.



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Again, thank you to the committee for reading my story, and thank you to Endera for believing in me, and getting me excited about learning again.

-Anthony Flores, Welder, Endera