



April 4, 2022

The Honorable Rob McColley
Chair, Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Building
Columbus, OH 43215

Good morning, Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. My name is Brendan Kelley. I am the Drive Electric Ohio Program Director for Clean Fuels Ohio. We are a 20-year-old non-profit dedicated to growing Ohio's economy and protecting America's energy security through alternative fuel vehicles. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry.

The automotive industry is rapidly transforming. Every automaker has made a commitment to shift their production to electric vehicles. As a supplement to my testimony, we have compiled a list of those commitments. I would highlight a couple of examples that are particularly relevant to Ohio. By 2035, 80% of Honda's vehicles sold will be electric or hydrogen. General Motors has committed to sell only electric vehicles by 2035.

To achieve this transition, manufacturers are making significant investments in electric vehicles, totaling over \$330 billion globally by 2025. These investment decisions, and therefore decisions about where the auto jobs of tomorrow will be, are happening right now. As an additional supplement to my testimony, we have compiled a list of announced investments made in other states. I want to highlight that, in the past 18 months, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina have secured pledges for over \$16 billion dollars of investment and over 20,000 *new* jobs. Here, in the Midwest, Michigan received a \$7 billion dollar investment from General Motors, which is expected to *create* 4,000 new jobs. Michigan was able to secure this investment by passing a new [business incentive package](#), which was developed after missing out on the investments that ultimately went to Kentucky and Tennessee.

We all know the importance of the auto industry to Ohio. We have manufactured cars for a century. Today, we have over 108,000 jobs in the sector, which is the second largest automotive workforce in the nation. We have a historic strength and should be competing for these new investments – but, we are being overlooked. What does this mean for Ohio? We are missing out on massive economic investment and job creation for our residents. Even more concerning, Ohio is at risk to lose some of its traditional automotive jobs that will not transition over. For example, Ohio is the number two producer of transmissions in the nation, which are not a component of EVs. By not securing EV manufacturing, Ohio is missing out on the opportunity to remain a leading automotive manufacturer. We cannot afford for Ohio to be left behind during this global economic transition, so we must take action to demonstrate that we want to build the cars of the next generation.

For more than a year, under Sen. Rulli's leadership, Clean Fuels Ohio has worked with more than 60 stakeholders to identify measures that can receive broad support and demonstrate that Ohio understands this industry and its changing needs. The measures in SB 307 are the result of that work, and many of the stakeholders involved in the process over the past year have provided proponent testimony, including Honda, Stellantis, AEP Ohio, the Ohio Auto Dealers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.



I cannot underscore the urgency behind this bill enough, as manufacturers are making strategic investment decisions *right now*. This bill will send a strong signal to the industry that Ohio is all in on EVs. Investing in and developing Ohio's workforce for EV production, growing the EV market, and supporting the needs of industry members will ensure that Ohio continues to be a leader in the automotive industry.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have about SB 307, and I thank you for your time and consideration.