



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund PAC]

Proponent Written Testimony - Senate Bill 307
Nolan Rutschilling - Interim Managing Director of Energy Policy
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Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee; my name is Nolan Rutschilling and I serve as the Interim Managing Director of Energy Policy for the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund (OEC AF). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry.

Ohio is a state that has always stepped up to the challenge of innovation and we yet again stand ready to face this challenge with the future of our auto industry. Leaders of this industry have pledged \$330 billion in investments to equip manufacturing facilities to build electric vehicles. These investments are expected to span through 2025, so the strategic planning for where these funds will go is occurring now. Ohio cannot afford to let this opportunity drive past as clean transportation manufacturing jobs go elsewhere.

To ensure that we protect, and grow, the 108,000 auto manufacturing jobs in Ohio we've got to enable the pursuit of any and all means of modernization so we can lead on electric vehicle manufacturing going forward. SB 307 will do just that by:

- 1. Investing in workforce development and factory retooling**
- 2. Encouraging the growth in Ohio's electric vehicle market through fleet and consumer vehicle incentives**
- 3. Unlocking much needed investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure**
- 4. Creating a state electric vehicle task force and an electrification plan**

Moving these key initiatives forward would signal that Ohio is committed to working with auto industry leaders to maintain our historical place as a premier manufacturing state. This would benefit Ohio workers, companies, and our environment as a whole. We hope to see a number of these electric vehicle jobs that will be staples of America's economy in the future come right here to Ohio, as we've already seen in neighboring states.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the bill sponsor, and members of the committee to see this legislation passed. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 307 and we urge passage.