

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 10-11-21

Name: Wayne Blanchard

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): IUAW

Position/Title: Director of Region 2B

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): 292

Specific Issue: EV Commission Bill

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

See attached document

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

October 11, 2021

Ohio Transportation and Public Safety Committee

RE: Support For HB 292 EV Manufacturing

Dear Transportation and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Wayne Blanchard, and I am the Director of Region 2B, International Representative for the United Autoworkers Union (UAW) in Ohio. I am writing to you today on behalf of the UAW and the over 40,000 UAW members that work and live in Ohio to ask you to support HB 292.

The American automotive industry is constantly evolving and is facing significant new changes with the proliferation of electric vehicles (EVs). Though EVs represent just 2% of sales in the U.S. today,¹ the industry is preparing for EVs to be a much larger share of the market going forward. Industry analysts, investors, and automakers may disagree about the pace of EV adoption, but there is consensus that we will see more EVs on the road in the coming years. Automakers will soon launch more EV models in the segments that are most popular with American consumers: CUVs, SUVs, and pickups. And as automakers improve technology, decrease battery costs, and produce at scale, EVs will become more cost competitive with traditional vehicles.

Major automakers around the world, including the Detroit 3 automakers, continue to announce billions in EV investments, new product plans and ambitious sales targets. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation estimates that auto companies will invest over \$330 billion on electrification globally by 2025.² But where are these investments going to be made? Today's investment decisions will shape the automotive manufacturing footprint for years to come. Now is the time to act, to ensure that Ohio's autoworkers are not left behind and that the industry continues to be a source of quality union jobs that support communities across the state.

The UAW has been on the forefront of automotive manufacturing and has long fought to ensure industry changes result in quality union jobs for American workers. Over the years, there have been many economic and technology cycles in the industry—but one constant remains—our organization's commitment to our members, our communities, and domestic manufacturing.

UAW members already work on cutting edge technology. We are proud to be building the vehicles of the future, including hybrids, plug-in hybrids, battery electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and increasingly efficient gasoline vehicles. This is especially true in Ohio, where most

¹ Wards Intelligence, "U.S. Light Vehicle Sales, December 2020 - Updated".

<https://wardsintelligence.informa.com/WI965360/US-Light-Vehicle-Sales-December-2020--UPDATED>

² Alliance for Automotive Innovation. August 2021. "Testimony of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation At the EPA Public Hearing on Proposed GHG Standards through Model Year 2026":

<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0208-0178>

UAW members work assembling vehicles and components, including cutting-edge electrification technology. For example, UAW members in Toledo build the 2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe, the best-selling plug-in hybrid on the market, while UAW members in Perrysburg build the power electronics module that is essential to the Wrangler's plug-in hybrid system.³

The UAW supports the development of cleaner and more technologically advanced vehicles, but we are deeply concerned that a significant portion of EVs or their components will not be built in the U.S., as companies continue to pour investments into EVs overseas. As it stands today, most of the production footprint of tomorrow's advanced automotive technology will be overseas. It is projected that by 2029, 70% of the lithium-ion batteries that power EVs will be built in China and another 16% will be built in Europe.⁴ EVs are an opportunity to re-invest in U.S. manufacturing, but that opportunity will be lost if vehicles and their key components are imported.

We need proactive policy to make sure the state's auto industry, autoworkers, and manufacturing communities are not left behind in this transition. That is why we urge you to support HB 292 and the creation of a state electric vehicle commission as an important step in this process. This commission will promote a coordinated response to prepare Ohio's auto industry for electrification by bringing together key stakeholders from government, labor, and industry. And the commission's work evaluating and monitoring the state's production, job creation, and workforce needs will help us build upon our strengths as an auto manufacturing state to create quality jobs for Ohio workers building vehicles of the future.

Therefore, we believe that a key step towards capturing these economic opportunities for Ohio workers is the passage of HB 292. On behalf of the UAW and our families here in Ohio, we respectfully ask for your support in the passage of HB 292.

Thank you,



Wayne Blanchard
Director of UAW Region 2B

³ Stellantis, December 2020, "2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe Joins Toledo Assembly Family": <https://media.stellantisnorthamerica.com/newsrelease.do?id=22383&mid=>; Stellantis, "FCA US Reports Q2 2021 U.S. Sales": <https://media.stellantisnorthamerica.com/newsrelease.do?id=22822&mid=1>; Stellantis, "Toledo Machining Plant": <https://media.stellantisnorthamerica.com/newsrelease.do?id=338&mk=>

⁴ Benchmark Mineral Intelligence. June 2020. "Written Testimony of Simon Moores to U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Committee": <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/6A3B3A00-8A72-4DC3-8342-F6A7B9B33FEF>