



April 4, 2022

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

I am writing to express the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber's support for Senate Bill 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry.

My name is Guy Coviello, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Chamber. The Regional Chamber is the third-largest chamber of commerce in Ohio representing more than 2,750 members who employ 150,000 workers in and around the Mahoning Valley.

Electric Vehicle manufacturing provides the Great State of Ohio with a sustainable, competitive advantage on which to grow its economy. In 2020, the Mahoning Valley received more economic development investment than any other region of Ohio primarily because of more than \$2 billion of investment in Electric Vehicle manufacturing. In 2021, the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman metropolitan statistical area experienced more new job creation per capita than the other three Northeast Ohio MSAs primarily because of thousands of new jobs in Electric Vehicle manufacturing.

Currently the Regional Chamber is working with many companies globally to bring EV, EV supply chain and EV charging station research, development, and manufacturing to the Buckeye State. The provisions in Senate Bill 307 will help accelerate growth across Ohio in this industry.

Especially important are provisions to assist manufacturers with retooling to enter the EV supply chain. According to JobsOhio, our State is No. 1 in the nation for jobs in combustion engine manufacturing and No. 2 for jobs in transmission manufacturing. The Mahoning Valley has already lost a 70-year-old company in the transmission supply chain. As we create new jobs in EV manufacturing, this bill will help us preserve jobs dependent on the combustion engine.

Provisions regarding workforce development and EV charging station regulations are also key components to our ability to attract additional companies to our state. Talent is the No. 1 concern for the manufacturers in our pipeline. Charging station infrastructure is also a high priority.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber asks this committee to favorably report SB 307. Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy Coviello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GUY COVIELLO, *President & CEO*

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