

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 5, 2022

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

I am writing to express Columbus State Community College's support for Senate Bill 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry.

My name is Steve Levin, Automotive Technologies program instructor and coordinator at Columbus State Community College. I am one of the full-time tenure track faculty members in our automotive training program. Our program prepares current and future automotive technicians to be able to diagnose and repair today's cars, and hopefully, the cars of tomorrow.

I was the Principal Investigator for a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant from several years ago that helped fund us to start teaching alternative fueled vehicles, including hybrid and electric vehicles. This grant allowed us to purchase some alternative fuel vehicles, including hybrid and plug in hybrid vehicles. The grant also funded updated curriculum and some of the equipment needed to teach these advanced vehicles. This grant benefited us and our students, opening up opportunities for them to learn new skills that would help them be more prepared to enter the workforce.

As battery electric vehicles adoption grows, SB 307 would help ensure those opportunities continue to be available by further expanding our training to our current students and allowing us to offer continuing education to incumbent technicians to expand our workforce development. Specifically, we could fund acquisition of new training curriculum, training for faculty on all aspects of EV and EVSE training programs, acquisition of new EV and EVSE training equipment, including vehicles, and provide scholarships and tuition assistance for new and existing students.

This funding would be a great boost to current and future technicians to prepare them to be able to correctly and safely diagnose and service electric cars on the road today and in the future to benefit Ohio consumers.

Columbus State Community College asks for your support of SB 307, and we appreciate the committee's consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Steve Levin,

Associate Professor,
Automotive Technology
Columbus State Community College