

The AOAI bill works to address EV accessibility through the introduction of a sales tax exemption on EVs, both for new and used vehicles; the inclusion of used vehicles in the incentive is a critical equity component that ensures that frontline communities have accessible price points to enter the EV market. Furthermore, the bill also looks to capitalize on the economic opportunity of electrification to transform Ohio's vital automotive industry, [an industry that generates one in every eight jobs in Ohio](#), to be future-facing. Proactive policymaking like SB 307 represents a move that would have potential to uplift frontline communities in the process. To sum up the impetus for passing SB 307, please consider the following:

- **Job losses in the automotive industry disproportionately impacted diverse and frontline communities:** Creating - and retaining - high quality clean energy automotive jobs in Ohio is one of the major impetus for the bill, and rightfully so: the automotive industry contributed \$108 billion to the state economy in 2015, nearly 20% of the total economic output statewide. However, communities of color were most impacted by contractions in the labor force: while the manufacturing sector contracted from a substantial 22.7 percent of all jobs in 1990 to just [12.7 percent by 2016](#). However, white workers experienced a **28.5%** loss of employment, compared to Black workers whose loss was nearly double at **46%**.
- **Access to personal vehicle ownership is critical for social mobility for diverse and frontline communities:** Personal vehicle ownership can be disproportionately expensive for low income households. According to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, average vehicle-owning U.S. households earning less than \$25,000 spend 50% of their income on vehicle ownership and operation annually, which is nearly three times higher than median-income vehicle-owning households³. Making things worse, frontline communities rely **more** on transportation than their counterparts to get access to high-quality education and opportunities for employment. Education and employment access are already stratified by race in Ohio: high school graduation rates are lowest for Hispanic and Black students (74% and 69% respectively) compared to white students who have a graduation rate of nearly 90%⁴. Similarly, the unemployment rate for Black Ohioians is nearly three times higher than for white workers, and double the state average⁵. The ability to close gaps in economic security is dependent on transportation that is reliable, flexible, and cost effective, a set of characteristics for which electric vehicles are especially well-suited.
- **The creation of a statewide task force is critical for including marginalized voices in the conversation around transportation:** Another mechanism that SB 307 introduces is the **task force** that would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the incentive program and factory retooling/reeducation grants. On the task force, EVHybridNoire worked to ensure the inclusion of a **community based organization** and a **public health organization** as part of the 13 members appointed to the task force by the governor. The context I have provided today is evidence also of the need for frontline voices in this conversation as it moves forward to ensure that the benefits of electrification reach all Ohians.

The benefits of increasing EV accessibility for diverse, frontline, and underserved communities include economic, environmental and public health benefits that would begin to level the playing field for the state's most vulnerable populations. As Ohio looks forward to the future, we cannot forget the past that has left frontline communities marginalized in the transportation landscape; therefore EVHybridNoire urges Ohio's leaders to pass SB 307 to ensure that the future we are building benefits everyone.

On behalf of the entire EVHybridNoire team and our members, I again thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on this topic, and would welcome any follow-up questions via Alexis@EVHybridNoire.com from committee members or their staff.