

April 1, 2022

To: The Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Re: Support Letter for Senate Bill 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry

Dear Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Committee.

Nikola Corporation appreciates the opportunity to express our **support** of SB 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry.

Nikola, a leading designer, and manufacturer of heavy-duty commercial battery electric (BEV), fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV), and energy infrastructure solutions, is paving the way as a global leader in zero-emissions transportation. Through a business model that will enable customers to integrate next-generation truck technology and hydrogen fueling infrastructure and maintenance, Nikola and its strategic business partners and suppliers are on a mission to leave the world a better place. Nikola is headquartered in Phoenix, AZ with a national dealer network that covers much of the Ohio Valley region.

Nikola firmly believes that electrification of medium and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDVs) in the transportation sector will help lower the total cost of ownership for commercial fleets by reducing energy expenses, limiting maintenance related downtime, and benefiting the economy at large by creating good paying jobs in a rapidly growing sector. Nikola is dedicated to growing its zero-emission transportation and infrastructure operations in Ohio, and the incentives and programs laid out in SB 307 will play a critical role in cultivating and accelerating market and fleet adoption of zero emission transportation technology.

If enacted, SB 307 will help the expansion of Ohio's Zero Emission Vehicle manufacturing and supply chain industry. Grant funding for factory retooling and workforce development investment will help to bolster in-state manufacturing, increase the availability of domestically produced electric vehicle parts and components, and mitigate supply chain issues faced by manufacturers across the nation. The State Task Force and Electrification Plan defined in the bill will help the state to plot a clear course in a rapidly changing industry. Furthermore, a commitment to upgrading charging infrastructure in Ohio and encouraging utilities to create MHDV fleet charging friendly rate structures and programs is crucial to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

Overall, this bill will position Ohio to maintain its legacy as a premier state for automotive manufacturing. Nikola appreciates your consideration and respectfully asks for your support on SB 307.

Sincerely,

William Higgins
Manager, State and Local Affairs
Nikola Corporation
will.higgins@nikolamotor.com