



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 Pegasus Specialty Vehicles' support for Senate Bill 307, Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry.

My name is Brian Barrington, President of Pegasus Specialty Vehicles. Pegasus is a startup school bus and shuttle bus manufacturer based in Dunkirk, OH in rural Hardin County. Presently we are offering 2 EV bus models in school bus and shuttle bus configurations built on a Ford E450 with conversion by Phoenix Motorcars and a purpose-built EV chassis by Zeus Electric Chassis. Presently we employ 9 people but plan to expand to 20-25 by the end of the year, and we are looking at 60-70 within 5 years.

This bill will help Pegasus fully move our manufacturing to our Ohio facility by bringing the EV chassis production from our partner's facilities and enable us to build both the Phoenix and Zeus chassis at our facility in Dunkirk. By building the chassis here in our facility we can control our means of production as well as bring additional staff on board, employing residents of Hardin County in good-quality manufacturing jobs. Ways this bill will help:

The Factory Retooling grants in SB 307 would enable us to expand our footprint and build a new facility to meet the demand of our customers. This could even go beyond the bus market that we are currently engaged in and move into building work trucks as well. The Zeus Electric Chassis is a vehicle that we are already looking at for water trucks, roll off trucks, and stake beds above and beyond the school bus and shuttle bus market.

The Workforce Development investment would also be important for us. We benefit from having two great institutions within a 30-minute radius: Ohio Northern University and University of Northwestern Ohio. The ability to partner with those institutions not only on EV manufacturing but also working with them to train the next generation of technicians that will be needed as the auto industry moves to EVs will be very valuable.

Pegasus Specialty Vehicles asks for your support of SB 307, and I appreciate the committee's consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Brian Barrington
President
Pegasus Specialty Vehicles

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