March 24, 2026

The Honorable Cindy Abrams
Ohio House Public Safety Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Substitute House Bill 1 (Ohio Property Protection Act)

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to share our perspective on Substitute House Bill 1.

The signers of this letter include members of the Ohio Metro Chambers Coalition, which is comprised of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Ohio's eight regional chambers and economic development organizations from Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown. Collectively, we represent employers supporting more than 4.4 million jobs across Ohio, accounting for approximately 80 percent of the state's total employment, and actively convene business and civic leaders around the key issues shaping our state's economic future.

We share the General Assembly's commitment to protecting Ohio's national security, critical infrastructure, and agricultural assets. At the same time, we write to express concerns regarding the potential unintended consequences of Sub. H.B. 1 on Ohio's economic competitiveness, workforce, and housing market.

Ohio is at a pivotal moment. Significant investments in advanced manufacturing, logistics, energy, and innovation-driven industries are reshaping our economy and increasing demand for highly skilled talent. At the same time, many regions of our state continue to face population stagnation or decline, making talent attraction and retention a top priority for employers across all sectors.

As currently structured, Sub. H.B. 1 may create barriers for individuals who are lawfully present and working in the United States—many of whom are critical contributors to Ohio's economy—to establish long-term roots in our communities. In particular, restrictions on property ownership could limit access to single-family homeownership, which remains a foundational step for workforce retention, community stability, and long-term economic growth.

Across our regions, employers rely on a diverse and highly skilled workforce, including individuals who relocate to Ohio to contribute to key industries such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, research, and technology. These individuals often intend to build their lives in Ohio—purchasing homes, raising families, and investing in their communities. Policies that introduce uncertainty or barriers to homeownership risk making Ohio less competitive relative to peer states.

Additionally, Ohio's continued economic success depends on maintaining a predictable and welcoming environment for business investment. Our regions are actively competing with other states and global markets for projects, talent, and capital. Broad restrictions that may inadvertently impact workforce mobility or long-term residency decisions could have downstream implications for business attraction, expansion, and overall economic growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments. We appreciate the opportunity to engage on this important issue and look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to support policies that strengthen Ohio's economy, workforce, and communities.

Sincerely,

Steve Millard
President & CEO
Greater Akron Chamber

Jeff Dafler
President & CEO
Canton Regional Chamber

Brendon Cull
President & CEO
Cincinnati Regional Chamber

Baiju Shah
President & CEO
Greater Cleveland Partnership

Derrick Clay
President & CEO
Columbus Chamber

Chris Kershner
President & CEO
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Steve Stivers
President & CEO
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Wendy Gramza
President & CEO
Toledo Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Guy Coviello
President & CEO
Youngstown/Warren Regional
Chamber

CC: Speaker Matt Huffman, Speaker Pro Tempore Gayle Manning, Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore Phil Plummer, Majority Floor Leader Marilyn John, and Assistant Majority Floor Leader Adam Bird