



Chairman Hill, Vice Chairman Koehler, Ranking Member Patterson, and members of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, good morning. I appreciate this chance to testify on House Bill 175 concerning urban homesteading.

Urban homesteading appeals to many Americans often for difference reasons, from those who embrace a do-it-yourself ethic to parents that want to teach their children where food comes from. Children are easily engaged by small livestock, offering an important educational opportunity to teach responsibility, stewardship and a sense of pride in supporting their family.

Small livestock are some of the most efficient sources of high quality protein, that can be available daily at home. They are easy to care for and provide many of the social benefits of companion animals.

In communities where wholesome food is scarce, too expensive or too far away. This bill will make it possible for creative neighborhood solutions to rise. It will allow people to make an impact in their own quality of life.

There are also economic benefits. According to a study by OSU and Regionomics, animal-related industry including animal food manufacturing, farm and pet supplies wholesalers and retailers contributed over 10.6 Billion to Ohio's economy. This bill will only add to that impact. Jobs in the animal-related businesses have grown by 22% between 2011 and 2015, during a time when the overall economy lost jobs. Ohioans love their pets and adding a new kind of pet will create opportunity for hundreds of small farm supply stores across our state.

Food is a basic need. Americans have a right to provide for their families, on their own land, through their own hard work. I urge you to support HB 175. Ohio will be better for it.

Respectfully,  
Mayda Sanchez

Executive Director  
Localfoodcolumbus.org  
Ohio Sustainable Business Council  
614.886.7119

Pages 1-6 outlines the impact of animal related economic activity in Ohio. Economic and Social Impacts of Veterinary Medicine in Ohio

<https://vet.osu.edu/sites/vet.osu.edu/files/documents/about/Economic%20%26%20Social%20Impacts%20Vet%20Med.pdf>