

**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, DEVELOPMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Warren Connolly
Ohio Certified Inspection Bureau
March 16, 2017**

I am Warren Connolly, owner of Ohio Certified Inspection Bureau (OCIB). My firm conducts approximately 40% of manufactured home installations inspections as a contractor to the Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission.

I employ inspectors on a part-time basis to conduct manufactured home inspections during their off hours whom also work for the Ohio Department of Commerce. This is of course is done with the full knowledge and approval of the Department of Commerce.

I am here today to register my concern with email communications from the Department of Commerce on March 9, 2017 right after their testimony before this Committee last week.

In the March 9th electronic communication Superintendent Shannon Himes of the Department of Commerce, Division of Industrial Compliance informed building inspectors who work for me that on July 1, 2017 they could no longer conduct manufactured home inspections. The Department of Commerce never contacted me as the employer.

Apparently, the presumption was this Committee and the General Assembly will support the Department of Commerce's takeover of the Manufactured Homes Commission's responsibilities.

This is a restraint of trade involving my business and it is just plain wrong to advise my employees that they must make other employment plans.

First of all the General Assembly has not passed anything yet that would give Commerce any responsibility for manufactured homes. However, should the Department of Commerce assume responsibility for manufactured homes regulation, which I assume is not a foregone conclusion, the Manufactured Homes Commission would still be responsible for all installation inspections until January 21, 2018.

This Communication from Commerce to my employees will:

- 1) Devastate my business without any notice
- 2) Jeopardize the safety of manufactured home installations in Ohio as my employees have been intimidated to not perform installation inspections for the 10 month interim period (July 1, 2017-January 21, 2018), should HB 49 language be enacted abolishing the Manufactured Homes Commission.
- 3) Should the Commission remain as in current Ohio Law, the upheaval and disruption caused by the Department of Commerce's premature and totally unwarranted communication will jeopardize 100% of home installation inspections. That is so because my employees will be reluctant to continue their employment, given the Department of Commerce's intimidation.

I urge the Committee regardless of the outcome of the legislative language involving the Manufactured Home Commission, to please stop the Department of Commerce from interfering with the current installation inspections for manufactured homes and from unfairly restraining my right to conduct trade in my small business.