



OHIO ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and Members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 164 the Commercial Roofing Contractor Licensing bill.

My name is Fred Horner and I am the President of Advanced Industrial Roofing in Massillon, Ohio. My company employs 100 people who perform industrial and commercial roofing projects and provide architectural sheet metal services. I am also the Legislative Committee Chairman of the Ohio Roofing Contractors Association.

ORCA represents hundreds of roofing contractors across Ohio. We have a diverse membership of large and small, union and non-union contractors who perform all types of roofing in many different markets. As an association we have been working for over thirty years to find a fair, efficient, and mutually beneficial commercial roofing licensing system for our members and for our customers. We strongly believe that HB 164 finally strikes just the right balance.

HB 164 will add a commercial roofing license section to the existing specialty contractors licensing structure within the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board. We at ORCA are confident that this well-tested, contractor-driven system will work well for the licensing of commercial roofing contractors. ORCA members know exactly what we are getting into since the OCILB has been operating effectively for almost twenty years.

Not only has the OCILB been an efficient way to manage licensing while protecting the general public through their oversight of licensed contractors, but their efforts to enforce the law have also curbed destructive 1099 abuse across the currently licensed trades. By ensuring that all subcontractors working on a project are licensed appropriately, all of Ohio's public and private building owners and the contractors performing work on their projects benefit by having this mechanism to create a level playing field across this critical part of our economy. The true economic benefit of construction spending is not realized when employment fraud is allowed to continue unchecked in the system.

I'd also like to point out that the roofing profession has continued to become increasingly technical. The need to have qualified licensed contractors working on such a crucial part of any commercial building is very important. ORCA Members believe that licensing and continuing education will make Ohio's public spaces safer and more efficient.

This bill provides an adequate system of grandfathering, good oversight through a section board that is required to have both union and non-union contractors equally represented, and is a financially reasonable licensing requirement at only \$60 per year with fair liability insurance requirements for contractors of all sizes at \$500,000. The OCILB has shown time and again that they are good partners with their contractors and the related industry organizations. We are looking forward to working with them on behalf of all of Ohio's roofers and urge the passage of HB 164.

2077 Embury Park Rd. Dayton, Ohio 45414



937-278-0335



937-278-0317



orca@assnsoffice.com

www.ohioroofing.com