



**BEFORE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE AND LABOR
COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE RON YOUNG, CHAIRMAN**

**TESTIMONY
OF
ROB BRUNDRETT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES
THE OHIO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION**

JUNE 19, 2018

Mr. Chairman, and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, my name is Rob Brundrett and I am director of public policy services at the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA).

Ohio is the nation's third largest manufacturing economy. Within Ohio, manufacturing is responsible for \$108 billion in gross domestic product, far more than any other industry sector.

Representing nearly 1,300 member manufacturing companies, the OMA is pleased to offer support for House Bill 625.

Ohio is home to 34 stationary paper manufacturing establishments (ranked #1 nationally), 30 paper board container manufacturing establishments (ranked #2 nationally), and 66 paper bag and coated and treated paper manufacturing establishments (ranked #3 nationally). These manufacturers alone produce nearly \$3 billion in output in the Buckeye State. These same manufacturers employ over 7,500 Ohioans with an average annual wage of \$57,377 according to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, well above the state average. These are family-sustaining jobs.

These manufacturers supply a large printing sector in our state and they supply packaging products to so many of our state's manufacturers be they food and beverage manufacturers or consumer products or appliances. Additionally, paper manufacturing is number one when it comes to utilizing recycled materials, fostering conservation and employing sustainable business practices.

Ohio manufacturers make all sorts of world class products. But when local jurisdictions enact restrictions on product content, or on labeling of products, or on taxing of certain products, it makes it very difficult for compliance in today's global economy. As such the OMA routinely advocates mitigating locally-imposed restrictions or taxes. In many cases these types of regulations are most appropriately adopted at the federal government level so as to not disadvantage businesses in one state over businesses in another state.

For these reasons the OMA favors House Bill 625 to ensure that taxes, fees or regulations on paper and paper-based packaging be adopted uniformly and not via a cumbersome patchwork of different local regulations and taxes that would disadvantage Ohio as a place to manufacture.

We thank to Representatives Lang and Lipps for sponsoring this important legislation to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. We urge your prompt passage of House Bill 625.

Thank you. That concludes my testimony.