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November 27, 2018

## **Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Testimony in Support of H.B. 625 Bryan Bennett, OCTC Director of Government Affairs**

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Minority Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee. My name is Bryan Bennett and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 625 (H.B. 625).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemical technology industry, which is the second largest manufacturing industry in the State of Ohio. Ohio, in turn, is the sixth largest chemical manufacturing state in the United States. In Ohio, the chemical technology industry employs over 44,000 people, pays an average wage of over \$80,000, and provides approximately \$1.3 billion in federal, state and local taxes annually.

OCTC believes that regulations should be consistent and transparent, therefore we support H.B. 625. House Bill 625 would preclude municipalities from enacting a tax or outright ban on auxiliary containers. The legislation defines auxiliary containers as "a bag, can, food service item, container, keg, bottle, or other packaging" made from a wide array of materials. Most Ohioans use auxiliary containers daily as they are used to transport food or beverages and carry groceries or other products purchased on a regular basis.

Allowing municipalities to impose taxes or bans on auxiliary containers at the local level would create a patchwork of regulations throughout the state, and by doing so create an added financial burden for Ohio's businesses by requiring them to comply with these added regulations. Also, businesses that have operations in multiple



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municipalities throughout the state will be forced to design a different business plan for each municipality that imposes these taxes or bans. These added costs would not only affect businesses, but would create a financial burden for consumers, as the additional tax on auxiliary containers would be levied upon the customer.

Along with the added costs for businesses that use auxiliary containers these new regulations stand to make businesses in municipalities with these regulations less competitive, as consumers are incentivized to purchase products in other jurisdictions where these taxes or bans are not levied.

H.B. 625 would protect Ohio's businesses and the state's overall competitiveness by ensuring regulations are consistent and transparent throughout Ohio. Therefore, OCTC requests that you support the passage of HB 625. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today.