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January 29, 2018

The Honorable Bill Blessing
Chairman, House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing,

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 223, legislation that would prohibit the installation of worn-out, damaged, used tires in Ohio.

Unfortunately, unsafe used tires are readily available and easy to come by, and motorists inadvertently place themselves at significant risk when their tires are not in good working condition. SB 223 will protect consumers from purchasing tires with known hazards that increase the risk of tire failure and vehicle crashes. Reducing the number of high-risk, unsafe tires moving along Ohio's roadways will create a safer driving environment.

Only used tires that meet specific, unsafe conditions that are well-known in the tire and auto service industry are prohibited from being installed by SB 223. Each of the conditions can be determined through a simple visual inspection of the tire and no reputable tire or auto service provider would place such a tire into service.

In addition, under current Ohio law, motorists caught driving with unsafe tires can be subject to a penalty. It is just common sense, then, that a business shouldn't be allowed to install those same tires.

SB 223 is a modest, targeted measure aimed at well-known, unsafe tire conditions that pose a risk to consumer safety. It will help reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities. For these reasons, the Ohio Chamber respectfully asks you and the members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee to favorably report SB 223. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith Lake
Vice President, Government Affairs