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March 8, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brinkman
Chairman, Insurance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Via Email: Josh.Miller@ohiohouse.gov

RE: House Bill 27

Dear Chairman Brinkman:

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Budget contained in House Bill 27. The Ohio Chamber supports BWC's budget because it reflects sound fiscal management. BWC is requesting \$566.5 million over the next biennium, which is flat from the previous biennium.

In addition, rates for private employers have been trending downward significantly in recent years. Since 2011, these rates have dropped an average of 28.2% leading to \$755 million less being collected from employers. By increasing coverage options for employers through the BWC's Other States Coverage program and expanding safety grants, the BWC has been promoting safety and protecting employers and employees throughout the state. All of this amounts to Ohio becoming a better, more competitive and affordable place to do business.

The Bureau's sound investments and efficient operations have led to a flat budget request. This is to the benefit of Ohio's employers. We may have additional comments on proposed amendments to HB 27 at a later date.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Boyd". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive script.

Don Boyd
Director, Labor & Legal Affairs
Ohio Chamber of Commerce