



May 27, 2020

To Chair Gayle Manning and Commerce & Labor Committee

As president of Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area (OHCHA), one of the originally designated heritage areas in the state of Ohio I would like to, on their behalf, extend endorsement for HB669. The mission of OHCHA is to preserve and protect both the natural and built heritage and cultural assets found in Southeast Ohio and critical to fulfilling that mission are thriving communities that offer the attractions and amenities that make them appealing to visitors and residents. Food service establishments are an integral part to that appeal.

During the current situation with Covid-19 and as the economy begins to reopen it becomes apparent that the organizations and businesses along with government in all communities, regardless of size, will have to work together in their efforts to try and keep the public safe and the businesses successful. Legislation, such as HB669, serves to benefit both the establishments and the community by providing the service and convenience desired by visitors and residents in a way that is both practical and beneficial over the long haul.

As an organization that builds relationships and cultivates partnerships as a way to tell the stories of the Southeast Ohio region it is this type of legislation that will serve to do the same within the local business communities. This is why we at OHCHA give our support to HB669 and appreciate the efforts made by the Ohio Legislature as Ohio reopens safely and responsibly.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Grady, President

Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area