



**BEFORE THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT WIGGAM, CHAIRMAN**

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

**JUNE 5, 2019**

Mr. Chairman and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rob Brundrett and I am director of public policy services at the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 242.

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,400 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

Manufacturing is the largest of the state's 20 primary industry sectors. Manufacturing contributed more than \$108 billion in GDP according to the most recent data. This amounts to nearly 18% of the state's economy. According to the most recent federal data, more than 700,000 Ohioans work in manufacturing.

Ohio is home to:

- 34 stationary paper manufacturers (more than any other state);
- 28 plastic bottle manufacturers (also more than any other state);
- 30 paper board container manufacturers (second most in U.S.);
- 28 plastics packaging film and sheet establishments (second most in U.S.); and
- 66 paper bag and coated-and-treated paper manufacturers (third most in U.S.).

These manufacturers alone produce more than \$5 billion in output for the Buckeye State. These same manufacturers employ more than 12,500 Ohioans with an average annual wage of nearly \$54,000. These are solid, family-sustaining jobs.

Moreover, these businesses supply packaging products to many of our state's other manufacturers in sectors such as food and beverage production, consumer products, and appliances. Additionally, manufacturing is an enormous consumer when it comes to utilizing recycled materials, fostering conservation and employing sustainable business practices.

Ohio manufacturers make a wide variety of world-class products. So when local jurisdictions in our state enact restrictions or outright bans on certain products or product content; or impose mandates to label certain products; or place a tax on certain products, it makes it very difficult for Ohio manufacturers to comply here at home, much less in the global economy.

This is why the OMA routinely advocates mitigating locally-imposed restrictions, mandates and 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 242. We must ensure that taxes, fees and regulations on packaging are adopted uniformly and not via a cumbersome patchwork of local mandates that would make Ohio a less friendly climate for manufacturing.

We thank Representatives Lang and Jones for sponsoring this important legislation to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. We urge your prompt passage of House Bill 242.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.