



**BEFORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO SENATE
SENATOR NATHAN MANNING, CHAIRMAN**

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

MAY 20, 2020

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs 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 written proponent testimony on House Bill 242.

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,300 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 \$112 billion in GDP according to the most recent data. This amounts to nearly 17% of the state's economy. According to the most recent data, over 701,000 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);
- 31 packaging machinery manufacturers (second most in the U.S.);
- 30 paper board container manufacturers (second most in U.S.);
- 28 plastics packaging film and sheet establishments (second most in U.S.);
- 13 metal can manufacturing 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 \$7 billion in output for the Buckeye State. These same manufacturers employ more than 16,300 Ohioans with an average annual wage of over \$50,000. 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.

Please feel free to contact me at rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com with any questions.