

Ohio House of Representatives
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Testimony of Ken Monnier, Chief Technology Officer
Emerson Commercial and Residential Solutions

Chairman Cupp, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Ken Monnier, I am the Chief Technology Officer for Emerson Commercial and Residential Solutions, based in Sidney Ohio. Emerson's Commercial and Residential Solutions is a world-leading provider of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) solutions, tools and home products for homeowners, businesses and beyond. Key brands include Copeland, Ridgid, InSinkErator, Sensi and ProAct. Emerson has more than 3,000 employees in Ohio. Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, it is my honor to be able to testify today with Mr. Naill.

I have proudly served as an advisory member on the Upper Valley Career Center's Heating Ventilation and Cooling program for fifteen years. Scott Naill and I have worked together on many different components of this advisory role, including broader activities with the Upper Valley Career Center leadership staff, collaboration efforts with Advisory Committee members, and recruitment, employment and other engagements with students in the program. In my years of experience, the Advisory Committee's input has always been valued, and our suggestions vetted and implemented as appropriate. Whenever the HVACR program needs advice, help, equipment or manpower, members of the committee are always willing to provide support. These efforts extend beyond the specific expertise of the committee members, as Scott has shared with you today. Our committee members enthusiastically participate in their advisory roles, as we all recognize the importance of career technical education as a critical ongoing need in our businesses, the industries we serve, and our communities.

Over the years, Emerson has strongly supported academic programs in the many communities where we are located. Here are just a few of the examples of where we have proudly partnered with Upper Valley Career Center's HVACR program to directly impact student outcomes:

- Test equipment, training materials, marketing expertise, and a \$200,000 grant from the Emerson Foundation Fund to improve the student experience and education.
- Participation in job shadowing and mentoring of HVACR students.
- Sharing of our 35-million-dollar Helix Innovation Center on the campus of the University of Dayton, where Upper Valley Career Center HVACR students have visited and studied the latest technology trends and industry challenges related to HVACR in homes, commercial buildings, and retail settings.

- Emerson proudly employs more than 20 current and past Upper Valley HVACR students.

While I am proud of Emerson's ongoing support to Scott's program, it is clear to me that the many other advisory members and their companies also provide significant support in a wide variety of ways. We know collectively that our combined support as advisors has helped drive growth and success of the program; over the past decade the number of HVACR students has grown from thirty to a capacity-filled fifty students, while Mr. Naill and the program have been recipients of several major regional and national recognitions for excellence in career technical education. Above all, student outcomes are the proof, with excellent, high paying technical jobs and career pathways for the graduates of the program.

I am confident that the current construct of robust and diverse advisory committees, comprised of motivated and engaged business leaders working diligently with our career technical educators on program and student outcomes, is the best way we can prepare students for a successful and rewarding career. As technology evolves and reshapes our lives in essentially every aspect of it, career technical education will remain challenged to keep pace with this rapid change. Specific, dedicated and technically aligned industry advisory committees will be as important as ever in each of the career technical educational academic programs, to assure our current and next generation of students are prepared for success in these technical workforce careers. Thanks very much for your time today. I am happy to take any questions.