



May 23, 2018

Chairman Frank LaRose
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman LaRose:

The Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) is the leading trade association representing Ohio's restaurant industry, the state's third-largest, private sector employer generating \$20.9 billion in sales, more than \$1.5 billion in sales tax annually, and employing nearly 575,000 Ohioans at 22,023 locations. Food Service is one of the growing economic engines in the state of Ohio.

The purpose of the letter is to encourage support for SB 293. This legislation would help cut bureaucratic red tape for not only Ohio's foodservice industry, but all Ohio businesses from overreaching state agencies. As we heard in sponsor, a study conducted by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University noted Ohio having the third highest number of regulations of the 22 states studied. When examining the study even further it reveals food manufacturing as the second highest targeted industry with over 7,000 industry relevant restrictions. The Ohio restaurant industry daily serves thousands of customers whose health and safety is a top priority. In addition to federal regulations, complicated and excessive state regulations hinder opportunities for growth among our members. The ORA supports any common-sense initiatives that progress the restaurant and foodservice industry, while maintaining the highest standards of safety.

In conclusion, the ORA believes SB 293 is essential for creating a business environment where Ohio business can thrive and aren't held back by unnecessary agency rules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Rosato".

Joseph Rosato
Director of Government Affairs