



59 Greif Parkway, Suite 101 Delaware, OH 43015
740.201.8088 www.ohiocornandwheat.org

**Agriculture and Rural Development Committee
Sub. H.B. 183 (Manchester)
Lucas Crumley, Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
October 29, 2019**

Chairman Koehler, Ranking Minority Member Brent, and members of the Ohio House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA) and its 1,800 members, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Substitute House Bill 183.

Farmers and agriculture remain the backbone and number one industry of Ohio's thriving and vibrant economy. OCWGA supports efforts to encourage new farmers to enter this demanding, asset heavy field and recognizes the financial barriers to doing so can be significant. Whether a prospective farmer comes from a multi-generation farming background or is endeavoring to enter the field for the first time, these barriers can be daunting. This bill provides meaningful financial assistance while also providing a pathway to successful business management through mentorship on navigating the sophisticated financial aspects of farm management.

In particular, OCWGA is pleased to see the revised language include provisions allowing for family member transfers of agricultural assets over time. As previously stated, the nature of farming requires significant investment in capital – both land and equipment. This naturally fosters a market in which families may need gradual transfers of significant assets to protect the feasibility of retirement for the seller and smooth the cost curve for beginning farmers. By recognizing this challenge, the substitute bill makes a major stride in promoting generational farming.

The OCWGA appreciates Representative Manchester's efforts on this important issue and thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Sub. H.B. 183. We ask the members of the committee to support this bill.

