Chairman Stephen Hambley
House Civil Justice Committee
77 S. High St., 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Hambley and members of the House Civil Justice Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to express support for Amended Senate Bill 21. As you are aware, if enacted, SB 21 will finally allow "Benefit Corporations" to be formed in Ohio.

Central Ohio alone has more than one-hundred social enterprises that make a profit while maintaining a mission of solving social problems and helping their communities. In general, SBCO advocates for businesses that cannot yet be formed as benefit corporations, as they are mainly sole proprietorships, partnerships or LLCs. However, it is our hypothesis that given the ability to be formed as benefit corporations, smaller firms will soon be incentivized to become "S" or "C" corporations in order to take advantage of the law. For the concept of benefit corporations to be successful, it will be important for business advocates to promote the new business designation to existing social enterprises. SBCO pledges to do our best to present and essentially "market" the concept of benefit corporations to prospective businesses.

SB 21 is legislation that couples together pro-business and pro-philanthropic provisions; it is not often to see this within public policy. There is no doubt that many businesses will still maintain a philanthropic purpose regardless of the liability protections they may soon receive as a result of SB 21. That being said, the passage of this legislation should encourage other corporations with beneficial purposes to relocate or establish in Ohio, and at the very least attract new investment dollars and talented (primarily millennial) employees to the state.

Chairman Hambley, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Am. SB 21. If you or any committee members should have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brandon S. Ogden
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