



May 6, 2019

The Honorable Steve Hambley
Chair, House Civil Justice Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Hambley,

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 21, legislation that would expand the choice of business forms available in Ohio. Specifically, SB 201 would permit a corporation to be formed as, or an existing corporation to become, a “benefit corporation” – a corporation that is able to explicitly focus its mission on “beneficial purposes.”

Under existing Ohio law, a corporation may be formed “for any purposes or combination of purposes for which individuals lawfully may associate themselves.” However, by becoming a benefit corporation, entrepreneurs and investors have an additional choice when determining which corporate form is most suitable to achieve their objectives. SB 21 would allow Ohio to attract – or keep – entrepreneurs and startups that want this flexibility.

We all want to see more companies locate in Ohio, and SB 21 would not only make Ohio a more competitive place for new businesses, but it would also facilitate access to new sources of investment capital that are directed at benefit corporations. Some estimates suggest that the value of the current social impact investing market in the U.S. is nearly \$9 trillion. By authorizing the creation of benefit corporations in Ohio, SB 21 could help attract more of these investment dollars to Ohio.

The Ohio Chamber believes SB 21 would help make Ohio more business-friendly and give Ohio businesses the same innovative flexibility and choice of business form now available in a majority of other states. Authorizing this new type of business entity would in no way detract from the status of traditional corporations nor would it diminish their considerable efforts to tackle community or societal issues. For these reasons, the Ohio Chamber respectfully asks you and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee to favorably report SB 21. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Lake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Lake
Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Members of the House Civil Justice Committee
Sen. Matt Dolan