

June 3, 2020

The Honorable Gayle Manning  
Chairwoman, Commerce & Labor Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street; Floor 12  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Support for Amendment 2546-1 to House Bill 674

Chairwoman Manning:

On behalf of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority and Toledo Express Airport, we appreciate the time and consideration that the Ohio General Assembly is taking towards innovative solutions to Ohio's economy as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the lives of so many. As you know, the restaurant industry has been hit incredibly hard by this pandemic and Ohio's commercial airports have seen that impact firsthand as the number of passengers have dropped significantly since March of this year. For airport restaurants to remain open while being diligent for the health and safety of passengers, airports have come up with a solution to meet both benchmarks.

By accepting amendment 2546-1 into House Bill 674, these restaurants will be able to effectively conduct business and protect the health of its patrons. Amendment 2546 addresses Ohio commercial airport passengers traveling from airports managed by a port authority (ORC 4382) or regional port authority (ORC 308). The amendment seeks to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages in post-security, public areas of a terminal (i.e. in a hold room/gate waiting area). This amendment allows the holder of a D-5d permit to sell beer and any intoxicating liquor at retail, only by the individual drink in glass and from the container, for consumption either: (1) on the premises where sold; or (2) if such premises is located in an area of a commercial airport terminal beyond a passenger or property screening checkpoint or to which access is restricted through security measures by the airport authority or a public agency, only in those areas of the airport terminal that are not past any additional security measures. Such expanded area of consumption shall only be allowed with the permission of the commercial airport's governing body. Current Ohio law limits the consumption of alcoholic beverages to the footprint of airport restaurants with D-5d permits.

With your support, along with the members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, Ohio's airport restaurants can

- Enhance the airport passenger's experience,
- Allow for proper health and safety practices like social distancing,
- Provide opportunities for these businesses to increase/maintain their sales, and
- Offer flexibility for each airport to determine their participation.

Once again, thank you and your colleagues for the important work you all are conducting for the betterment of our state's economy.

Sincerely,

Columbus Regional Airport Authority and Toledo Express Airport