



**SENATE TRANSPORTATION, COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE  
December 17, 2020**

**OPPONENT TESTIMONY (WRITTEN ONLY) ON HOUSE BILL 442 (AMENDMENT)**

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee:

Our organizations represent commercial construction contractors, subcontractors and specialty trades, and workers. Our members build schools, roads, bridges, office and medical complexes, pipelines, industrial and manufacturing facilities, wastewater treatment plants, mechanical and electrical systems, and a host of other vertical and horizontal structures.

**OUR ORGANIZATIONS STRONGLY OPPOSE AMENDMENT 133-0983 TO HB 442 AS IT WILL WEAKEN LICENSURE FOR CONSTRUCTION TRADES AND JEOPARDIZE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

Our organizations echo and support testimony submitted by the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) received as part of yesterday's hearing in opposition to this amendment. As noted in that communication, Ohio's reasonable requirements for continuing education have served our industry well. Commercial and industrial contractors receive annual training on important building and safety codes that ensure that our buildings are constructed to the highest and most recent safety standards. The number of hours required for continuing education has already been reduced in recent years and it could be argued that they are already at a bare minimum.

Collectively, the Building Trades and its partner contractors invest over \$50 million dollars per year on apprenticeship and safety training. To say the least, we consider safety training to be a core requirement to ensure safe workplaces in every corner of the state. By watering down licensing requirements, construction industry workplaces – our jobsites – become even more hazardous. It is in Ohio's interests to maintain the highest degree of safety for construction, and the OCILB does exceptional work in this regard. Accordingly, we are opposed to measures such as this that would potentially undermine the work of the OCILB and compromise safety on the jobsite.

We respectfully request that the proposed changes to the OCILB and Historical Boilers Board be removed from consideration.

Thank you.