



THE VOICE OF OHIO'S HIGH-TECH CHEMISTRY COMMUNITY...
MAKING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL OHIOANS.

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June 9, 2021

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Testimony In Support of House Bill 272

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, my name is Andy Swaim. I am the Director of Government and External Affairs for the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 272 (HB 272).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemistry industry. Ohio is the third largest chemical manufacturing state in the United States. The chemistry industry in Ohio employs nearly 40,000 people, pays an average wage of over \$85,000, and ships more than \$5.6 billion in products worldwide every year.

The OCTC represents manufacturers that produce products ranging from high-performance paint to pesticides to lifesaving medical equipment. Many of our products are developed through painstaking research and development processes that hone products to be the safest, most effective product on the market. When our products are mishandled or counterfeited, there can be significant consequences to the health and safety of consumers as well as the environment.

House Bill 272 would help to prevent counterfeiters and those persons trying to sell stolen goods from using online marketplaces to easily traffic those items. The OCTC understands that the addition of verification and transparency measures will provide a certain amount of operational burden to those online marketplaces. However, as noted in a [recent report from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)¹:

While the U.S. brick-and-mortar retail store economy has a well-developed regime for licensing, monitoring, and otherwise ensuring the protections of intellectual property rights (IPR), a comparable regime is largely non-existent for international e-commerce sellers.



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Among the best practices listed in the report for combatting this criminal activity are significantly enhanced vetting of third-party sellers, rapid notice and takedown procedures, and pre-sale identification of third-party sellers.

HB 272 would implement all of these precautions to help ensure that the products of the chemistry industry are being handled responsibly and consumers are getting legitimate products. OCTC urges passage of House Bill 272 as a reasonable approach to tackling this growing issue. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

ⁱ (Combatting Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods, US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Strategy, Policy & Plans, 2020)