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**House Economic and Workforce Development Committee**  
Substitute Senate Bill 105 – Proponent Testimony  
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October 27, 2021

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 105, which would create Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) reciprocity.

Many counties across Ohio operate MBE programs that are similar to the state’s program. These programs are designed to assist minority businesses in applying for and obtaining government contracts. Currently, a business must obtain certification for these programs at both the state and local levels if they wish to apply for contracts in multiple jurisdictions.

Senate Bill 105 simplifies the process for MBEs and local governments alike by creating a reciprocity of the state certification. The bill requires that a local government accept state MBE certificates as proof that the individual meets the ownership and control requirements outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. Local governments can still maintain additional requirements, such as proof of residency.

The process outlined in Senate Bill 105 will save counties administrative time in operating their MBE programs. CCAO thanks Senator Sykes and Senator Schuring for introducing this legislation and respectfully asks the committee to favorably report Senate Bill 105.

