

**Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation**

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To: Ohio House of Representatives – Infrastructure & Rural Development  
From: Matthew A. Szollosi  
Date: 4.28.21  
  
Re: HB 91 – Public/Private Agreements

Chairman Stoltzfus / Vice-Chair Dean / Ranking Member Brown:

Please be advised that ACT Ohio is a 501(c)(5) organization created by the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council to encourage economic and industrial development opportunities, and to promote industry-best practices for Ohio's public and private construction. For the reasons that follow, I offer this written testimony as our organization's statement of support for passage of HB 91.

Our 137 local affiliates, along with our 14 regional councils represent approximately 95,000 skilled construction workers. At more than 80 state-of-the-art training facilities across the state, Building Trades apprentices are acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to produce high-quality craftsmanship in every area of the construction field.

The Building Trades invest collectively over \$50 million per year on apprenticeship training, helping create the next generation of construction professionals. These state of the art apprenticeship training centers are all 100% privately funded through employer contributions and member deductions. (The total taxpayer investment in Building Trades apprenticeship training programs is \$0). HB 91, if passed, would serve an important function as it would help fund state and local construction projects which put our members to work each and every day and allow for our workforce development efforts.

In short, we see HB 91 as a jobs bill. Passage of the bill would lead to additional resources that could be used for purposes related to the construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public facilities and infrastructure. We support legislative efforts to streamline investments that lead to direct jobs for blue-collar construction workers making a competitive wage and good benefits for their families.

Additionally, having worked closely with JobsOhio for several years with regard to industrial development initiatives, I can assure you that maintaining and improving Ohio's infrastructure is critically important to investors looking at Ohio for projects.

Ohio is having great success in industrial job creation because it checks all the relevant boxes, including (i) location/proximity to dense population areas; (ii) highly skilled workforce; (iii) access to critical natural resources; (iv) access to power; (v) transportation/ infrastructure network and (vi) reasonably low income tax rates. We need to build upon our logistical advantages over competing states for this industrial investment, and supplementing our state's infrastructure investment through HB 91 is an important way to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important proposal.