



March 31, 2022

Re: Proponent Testimony, SB225

Chair Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Sobecki and Members of the Way and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Ohio Society of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Ohio), we would like to convey our strong support for Senate Bill 225 that will enhance the existing Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program for fiscal year 2022 and 2023. It is our belief that this legislation is essential to preserve the historic structures in our communities, create jobs, raise state and local tax revenues, and ensure the vitality of our community centers both large and small.

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AIA Ohio represents over 2,100 members in the architecture profession in Ohio and nearly 6,000 architects registered to practice in the state. Our association is in full support of SB225 because it would fulfill essential unmet needs that exist under the current funding formula. Last year, almost 49% of all Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects were left unfunded resulting in many worthy and viable projects in communities across the state not having the funding necessary to move forward. It's not only a part of our past that was lost when these projects went unfunded but it is also the opportunity to ensure a more economically viable and sustainable future for all Ohioans through building reuse and adaptation.

In fact, from an economic perspective, studies have shown that for each dollar of state tax credits provided, an average of more than \$6 is provided in private investment. The \$60 Million Dollar increase proposed through this legislation could result in an additional \$360 Million Dollars in private financing in support of projects needed to help rebuild our communities.

For small communities, Senate Bill 225 is a welcome change that will provide smaller municipalities who often struggle to secure funding for projects the opportunity to benefit from this important program.

These are just a few of the reasons AIA Ohio strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 225 and the opportunities it will provide to Ohio's communities to preserve their heritage and generate much needed economic development dollars.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Hill", written over a white background.

Aaron Hill, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
President, AIA Ohio