



May 31, 2022

The Honorable Derek Merrin
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Proponent Testimony, SB225

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

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Society of the American
Institute of Architects (AIA Ohio), to express our support for SB
225 which would temporarily increase funding for the Ohio
Historic Preservation Tax Credit program.

As noted in our past support of this legislation, SB225 is an
important tool for economic development in Ohio, doubling the
funding available per biennium. Our membership enthusiastically
supports this legislation and believes it will provide the needed
funding to support preservations efforts in communities of all
sizes across the state.

In consideration of the recent amendments proposed to SB 225,
AIA Ohio supports the inclusion of the emergency provision that
allows Ohio to reap the benefits of the temporary expansion
immediately. We also strongly support the amendment that would
permit more cities in Ohio to receive a 35% Ohio Historic
Preservation Tax Credit. Further, we are not opposed to the
amendment that would impose financial consequences on
projects that receive Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits that
do not move forward in a timely manner. These proposed
amendments advance the economic vitality of our communities
while supporting sustainable design.

However, AIA Ohio does oppose the amendment that would
remove the Opportunity Zone expansion language from SB255.
This amendment does not support the economic goals of Ohio
and limits the opportunities available for economic growth within
our State.

AIA Ohio respectfully urges the passage of Substitute Senate Bill
225 out of committee preferably without the language that
removes the Opportunity Zone expansion language. Thank you for
your continued support of communities across the state and your
work on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Hill", written over a light blue horizontal line.

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

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