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Committees

Chair- Infrastructure and
Rural Development

Finance

Ways & Means

Sponsor Testimony: HB 197 Senate Ways and Means Committee

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify as a sponsor of HB 197.

This legislation aims to increase training opportunities for new truck drivers in order to address the industry's growing driver shortage. This bill seeks to assist companies who invest in training their drivers by offering employers a nonrefundable tax credit. The credit will be equal to one-half of the employer's actual training expenses, and capped at \$25,000 per company.

The trucking industry transports over two-thirds of all freight throughout the United States. The drivers that move that freight play a critical role in our economy's success. Unfortunately, trucking companies are having a difficult time finding and attracting drivers. In 2014 the industry was in need of an estimated 38,000 drivers. Since then that number has grown to over 50,000 with no sign of slowing down.

To help address this problem, HB 197 will give companies the resources needed to train drivers and therefore produce more highly qualified CDL holders. While some companies are able to invest the thousands of dollars it takes to provide job training to future drivers, others simply do not have the resources.

By increasing training opportunities this legislation will help address the growing demand for truck drivers throughout the State of Ohio. It will also open doors for Ohioans seeking entry into well-paying career fields involving heavy equipment operation. In my experience, when a company trains an employee to get their CDL it is an opportunity for that employee to better themselves by adding to their income, raise their wages, because of the value they bring to the company.

To summarize, this bill will do the following:

- 25k max per company
- 1.5 million per year max
- Sunset provision after 4 years

It is my hope that this bill will help small companies across Ohio have the resources they need to train drivers and grow Ohio's economic power.

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Thanks again for the opportunity to testify as a sponsor of HB 197. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.