



A DIVISION OF WALLBUILDERS

**Testimony before the Civil Justice Committee Regarding HB 212  
April 18, 2024**

Chairman Hillyer and Members of the Civil Justice Committee:

My name is Bette Grande, I am Policy Director for the Pro-Family Legislative Network and was asked to submit testimony on HB 212 by Rep. King. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

*“Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals, as that which the term particularly expressed. This being the end of government, that alone is a just government, which impartially secures to every man, whatever he owns.”* James Madison, Property (29 Mar. 1792: papers 14:266-68)

This bill comes before you at an important time. The borders wide open and millions of people are flooding into our country, the possibility that some are coming with the intent and ability to do harm must be considered by policy makers. We are also well aware that certain countries and terrorist groups wish to do us harm. The lives, happiness, and property of the people of Ohio rely on Ohio’s critical infrastructure and HB 212 is a straightforward and proactive solution.

Critical infrastructure includes utility facilities, transmission lines, pipelines, water supplies, transportation, and government facilities like military bases. Some of these are more secure than others but the operation of each is compromised if the adjacent property is owned and/or controlled by bad actors.

Several states have passed or are considering laws to protect the critical infrastructures in their states, such as [Oklahoma](#) (HB 1123 (2017)) and [North Dakota](#) (SB 2024 (1019)). These bills impose fines and criminal punishment for trespassing and damage done to the critical infrastructure facilities. That is good policy, but HB 212 utilizes a statute on the books to proactively address the ownership of property adjacent to critical infrastructure facilities. Bad actors can of course simply lie on the required attestation, but the Bill includes enforcement provisions to deal with that as well. Prevention, by imposing a protective barrier around critical infrastructure facilities reduces the risk of damage and helps to ensure the safety and access to food supplies, water, and energy sources for the people of Ohio.

HB 212 also utilizes existing resources for the identification of foreign adversaries and entities tied to or controlled by such adversaries. Reports of foreign entities seeking to acquire property

close to military bases and other critical infrastructure are widespread across the country. Ohio is not alone in dealing with this threat. The primary role of government is to protect the lives, rights, and property of its citizens and HB 212 is a powerful step in that direction.

HB 212 accomplishes this in a simple and straightforward manner by using existing statutes and existing government.

For Liberty,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bette Grande". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bette Grande, Policy Director for WallBuilders Pro-Family Legislative Network