

To: Ohio House of Representatives – Commerce and Labor Committee
From: Michael Knisley
Date: 12/6/2023
Re: Proponent Testimony HB 308

Chairman Kick, Vice-Chair Lear & Ranking Member Rogers:

I'm Mike Knisley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council. We represent nearly 100,000 building and construction tradespeople—men and women who put a hard hat on every day and go to work in every county and city across Ohio. Our members are highly-trained construction apprentices and experienced journeypeople from 144 Building Trades unions representing more than 12 building trades.

The Ohio State Building & Construction Trades are proponents of HB 308.

For generations, Ohio Building Tradespeople have built and maintained the essential mining, production, transmission, and generation facilities that comprise our state's diverse energy sector. We support an all-of-the-above energy strategy for the state, including green nuclear technology. Our energy sector must keep up with innovation to meet the projected demand of our state's residents, businesses, and industries. Investments in Ohio's legacy energy infrastructure as well as green energy sources are essential to keep our members working and our state economically competitive.

The workforce development opportunities in green energy will benefit Ohio communities as well as Ohio tradespeople. Our unions and their contractors invest over \$60 million in private funding every year in apprenticeship and safety training in more than 70 apprenticeship training centers across Ohio. Many of these training programs have agreements in place with local community colleges to ensure that apprentices earn credits towards an associate degree as they complete their training in our programs. HB 308 facilitates the development of more green energy jobs, thereby increasing our demand for skilled construction workers and driving our increased investment in workforce development through apprenticeship in Ohio communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 308. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and thank you for your consideration of our position.

Mike Knisley,



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