



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 87
Representative Steve Demetriou, 35th House District
Representative Nick Santucci, 64th House District
Government Oversight Committee

Thank you Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, and Ranking Member Forhan along with the rest of our colleagues on the Government Oversight Committee for your time today. I'd also like to thank Representative Nick Santucci for allowing me to partner with him on House Bill 87 which ensures taxpayer dollars only buy America and Ohio flags made in America.

Ronald Reagan said, "When we honor our flag we honor what we stand for as a Nation – freedom, equality, justice, and hope."

House Bill 87 ensures that Ohio and American flags purchased with our tax dollars are made in America- a country that espouses those ideals that President Reagan so eloquently quoted.

Only 6% of American flags in the United States are imported from overseas. However, of the imported flags 94% are made in China.¹ The Chinese Communist Party represents the antithesis of the values I mentioned earlier. Just over the past few years we have read or watched the CCP implement extreme lockdown policies, imprison religious minorities, and silence political dissenters. We must ensure that the symbols of our country and state are being made in our own country for these facts alone.

Despite stalled bipartisan efforts to implement similar legislation to House Bill 87 in Congress, the federal government can still purchase American flags that contain only 50% of American-made materials.² This is why we must take action here in Ohio to protect our flag and our tax dollars.

I thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill 87. God bless America and God bless Ohio.

¹ [Marketplace.org](https://www.marketplace.org)

² [Article in The Hill](#)