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**Consal Oinigh na hÉireann  
Honorary Consul of Ireland**

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**April 22, 2024**

Members of the Legislature,

As the (first) Honorary Consul of Ireland in Ohio, I am privileged to submit testimony to this esteemed assembly in strong support of House Resolution 374, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ireland and the United States. This milestone is not only a celebration of a century of friendship and cooperation at the national level but also a significant marker of the deep and enduring connections between Ireland and the state of Ohio.

Our relationship is built on a shared heritage, profound economic ties, and a vibrant cultural exchange that has enriched both our communities. Ohio proudly boasts a substantial Irish American population whose contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our state are invaluable. From business investments and academic collaborations to cultural programs, the bonds between Ohio and Ireland have brought mutual benefits and fostered a spirit of kinship and mutual respect.

Recognizing this centennial is an acknowledgment of the past and a commitment to the future. It serves as a reminder of the resilience and strength of our international relationships and the role such partnerships play in addressing global challenges. This resolution not only celebrates a historical milestone but also reaffirms our continued collaboration and friendship.

It is imperative that we remember and honor these ties, not only because of what they have achieved but because of what they promise. As we look forward, let us renew our commitment to nurture and expand this friendship to new heights, ensuring that the connection between Ireland and Ohio remains vibrant and beneficial for future generations.

I urge each of you to support this resolution and join in marking this momentous occasion, thereby reinforcing the bonds that link Ireland and Ohio and setting the stage for another century of shared success and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mark Owens

Honorary Consul of Ireland in Ohio