



**Representative Terrence Upchurch  
20<sup>th</sup> House District**

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and the members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 298.

HB 298 will designate October 10<sup>th</sup> as Black Brewers Day. Currently, less than 1% of craft breweries in the United States are owned and operated by African Americans. I had the opportunity to meet with one of my constituents, Christopher Harris, who is the founder and owner of one of the five Black owned breweries in the State of Ohio, Black Frog Brewery. I was able to discuss this legislation idea with him after hearing about him opening a new Black owned brewery in my district later this year in the MidTown Collaboration Center.

We selected October 10<sup>th</sup> as the date because that is when the late, Theodore Mack Sr. became the nation's first Black brewery owner when he purchased the People's Brewing Company in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 1970. We want to continue to honor Ted Mack for his contributions as well as shine a light on the new up and coming Black Brewers in our State.

Thank you all for the opportunity to testify on HB 298, I urge a yes vote and am open to answer any questions from the committee.

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