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**Manufacturing Policy Alliance (MPA)  
Opponent Testimony on H.B. 205  
Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee  
November 14, 2023**

Chairman Reineke, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith and fellow distinguished members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee, thank you for receiving MPA's testimony in **opposition** to H.B. 205.

MPA was formed to provide an effective voice on critical policy matters that affect the competitiveness of Ohio and its large manufacturing companies. We strive to work with the General Assembly and the Governor to help sustain a healthy and vibrant economy. MPA members are concerned with the direction of H.B. 205 and believe that the bill would be detrimental to the competitiveness of manufacturing in Ohio.

We greatly appreciate the deliberative and transparent process the Committee has followed for debating the merits of the legislation.

Unfortunately, it has been argued that H.B. 205 is necessary to improve safety at our state's refineries. But the facts do not support this statement.

For large manufacturers, safety rises in importance above all else. We routinely start our day and our meetings with a safety reminder to our workers and teammates. We regularly report our safety statistics to our shareholders and set real and meaningful goals to improve safety year-over-year. The ultimate objective is that every worker leaves the workplace at the end of their day and returns to their family safe and sound.

H.B. 205 purports to improve safety by mandating that refineries hire a specific class of workers, despite that fact that there is no guarantee that these workers will have an equal or better safety record than current or alternative contractors and subcontractors. In principle, forcing private employers to use unionized labor is objectionable. In practice, it *could* result in *less* safety in the workplace.

MPA members include several that have union workforces, but unionization should not be imposed by the Legislature. We believe H.B. 205 is bad policy and could set a dangerous precedent for the state's large manufacturers. Which industry will be next?

Manufacturers should reserve the right to hire the best person for the job and the one that makes the most sense given their specific company's needs. We urge the Committee to oppose H.B. 205.