



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 6/5/2023

Name: LARRY R. FORLETTA

Address: 206 MAPEET LANE

NEW CASTLE, PA 16101

Telephone: (724) 333-4068

Organization Representing: OASIS

Testifying on Bill Number: S.B. 100

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____



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Interested Party Testimony Before the Ohio Senate Financial Institutions
and the Technology Committee.

May 31, 2023

Larry R. Forletta, Founder
Forletta Investigative Security Consultant

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 100 (SB 100) and the importance of GPS to the private investigation field.

I am Larry R. Forletta, and I founded Forletta Investigative Security Consultant. I am a proud member of the Ohio Association of Security and Investigative Services (OASIS), a prestigious group of professionals with various backgrounds, who provide professional services to thousands of citizens in the great State of Ohio.

My background comes from thirty years of law enforcement experience, and I have worked in local, state, and federal law enforcement. I am also proud to call myself a Youngstown State University alumnus with a Bachelor's in Law Enforcement Administration.

I am a retired Special Agent with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). I am a judicially recognized expert in state and federal court dealing with drug and money laundering investigations. I am also familiar with the subject matter involving GPS and its importance, and I have used it successfully during my career.

I have been in the private sector going into my seventeenth year, involved in numerous investigations and working closely with law enforcement authorities when needed. I have conducted internal investigations for local governments where using GPS was essential in terminating employees. In this type of investigation, law enforcement has a limited role and no role unless there is a violation of the law.

As many members of this Committee know, our law enforcement official's resources are stretched very thin with a broad aspect of many issues facing today's law enforcement. I believe it's essential for the private and security field sector not to replace law enforcement but to enhance its limited resources. Many of us, like myself, come from a law enforcement background.

301 GRANT STREET, SUITE 4300, PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219
206 MAPEAT LANE, NEW CASTLE, PA. 16131

LARRY.FORLETTA@FCISLLC.COM | FCISLLC.COM
877.874.9394 TOLL FREE | 724.652.8228 FAX



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We are also familiar with dealing with victims of crime, including stalking, harassment, and violations of civil court orders for protection from abuse. Even with court orders, the abusers violate privacy by placing GPS devices and, more recently, air tags to track their victims. Our solution is to help provide a piece of mind to the victims, and we conduct sweeps of their vehicles to detect any devices concealed in their residences, business, cell phone, computers, etc.

The GPS is also effective for investigating property crimes, with many businesses in salvage yards seeing a rise in thefts, more recently, the theft of catalytic converters. We work with law enforcement authorities and provide them with information and assistance which leads to the recovery of stolen property. The private sector plays a significant role and can commit manpower to surveillance, whereas the law enforcement agency has limited resources and must deal with serious criminal activity.

In closing, I want to thank Senator Nathan Manning and Senator Nicky Antonio for his leadership role in this bill meeting with OASIS and a better understanding of our profession and needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the importance of using GPS by the private investigative security sector. I would be happy to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Forletta

Retired DEA

Founder

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