

Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation

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Senate General Government Committee
Chairman Michael Rulli
One Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Room 143
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: SB 158

Chairman Rulli, Vice-Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora:

Please be advised that the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation (“ACT Ohio”) is a 501(c)(5) organization created to encourage economic and industrial development opportunities, and to promote industry-best practices for Ohio’s public and private construction.

Our 145 local affiliates, along with our 14 regional councils represent approximately 98,000 skilled construction workers. At more than 80 state-of-the-art training facilities across the state, Building Trades apprentices are acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to produce high-quality craftsmanship in every area of the construction field. Per the brief explanation that follows, I am here in support of SB 158.

Over the past several years, our state’s industrial development wins have led to enormous opportunities for the Building Trades. Our apprenticeship training classes are at record numbers, and just this year we have already doubled the number of veterans entering the Trades compared to last year. Our recruiting and educational efforts have led to record numbers of minorities and women entering and succeeding in the Trades as well.

In Ohio’s construction industry, good government matters. Strong fiscal policy, smart, aggressive development approaches, and collaboration between our state’s economic development engine – JobsOhio – and state/regional/local decision-makers is of the utmost importance. Also critically important is the strong fiscal stewardship of taxpayer dollars and smart investment strategy, particularly when it comes to infrastructure.

In short, we strongly support our current form of municipal government. Any effort to divert taxpayer resources from customary fiscal appropriation protocols carries risk, and lacks tried and true accountability standards. Ohio has outstanding mayors and city/county council members that are duly elected stewards of public resources, and are accountable at the ballot box for their decisions. As fiduciaries of the taxpayers’ resources, these elected officials are subject to statutory ethics laws and sunshine laws designed to hold them to the very highest standards of professionalism and care.

The statutory framework is already in place to ensure good sound public policy by those who are duly elected, and I believe SB 158 reinforces this framework 100%. ACT Ohio believes fully in the municipal governance standards already in place – lets not allow our extremely high standards for stewardship of taxpayer resources be open to fraud, waste or abuse.

I urge your support for SB 158.