



**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION OPPOSITION TO S.B. 23**  
Senate Government Oversight Committee, April 19, 2023 (Written Only)

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Minority Member Hicks-Hudson, and Senators on Government Oversight Committee:

Our organizations—Ohio Contractors Association, Associated General Contractors of Ohio, Mechanical Contractors Association of Ohio, National Electrical Contractors Association (Ohio), Construction Employers Association, Transportation Advocacy Group of Northwest Ohio, Affiliated Construction Trades of Ohio, Ohio Laborers’ District Council, International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 18, Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Indiana-Kentucky-Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters—represent commercial construction contractors, subcontractors and specialty trades, and workers. Our members build schools, roads, bridges, office and medical complexes, pipelines, industrial and manufacturing facilities, wastewater treatment plants, mechanical and electrical systems, and a host of other vertical and horizontal structures.

**Our organizations strongly oppose S.B. 23.** The legislation is not in the best interests of public construction in Ohio and abuses taxpayer dollars because:

- **It creates a path for political subdivisions to avoid competitive bidding for construction;**
- It bypasses the competitive processes and protections of standard construction contained in the Ohio Revised Code, including advertising, bonding, subcontractor protections, etc.;
- **It makes the award of construction contracts less transparent;**
- It generates inconsistency and confusion within the construction industry in Ohio;
- And due to the reasons above, **it limits the ability of local businesses to compete for public projects.**

**Our organizations support openness, competitiveness, and transparency in Ohio’s commercial construction and public procurement laws.** Ohio’s current construction procurement laws encourage competitive processes for the award of contracts, provides transparencies for the general public (taxpayers) and those working on the project, as well as affords protections for owners, contractors and workers. S.B. 23 undermines these principles.

**We urge you to oppose S.B. 23 and any efforts to weaken construction procurement laws, lessen transparency, and circumvent open and public bidding laws.**