



March 15, 2023

The Honorable Bob Hackett  
Chairman  
Senate Insurance Committee  
Ohio Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Senate Bill 63 – Written Proponent Testimony**

Dear Chairman Hackett:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 63.

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,300 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

Manufacturing is the largest of the state's industry sectors. In 2022, manufacturing contributed more than \$130 billion to Ohio's economy. In that year, manufacturing accounted for nearly 18% of Ohio's private industry GDP. According to the most recent data, more than 665,000 Ohioans work in manufacturing, and manufacturing has the largest payroll of any Ohio economic sector.

For manufacturers to invest and grow in Ohio – and compete globally – Ohio's civil justice system must be rational, fair, and predictable. Manufacturers must be free to innovate and pursue market opportunities without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits, while injured parties must have full recourse to appropriate measures of justice. Senate Bill 63 will help accomplish these objectives.

Senate Bill 63 requires that within 30 days of filing the complaint, a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim must file a signed sworn statement specifying the evidence that provides the basis for each asbestos claim against each defendant in the case. If a named defendant's product or premises is not identified in the required disclosures, the court, upon motion by a defendant, shall administratively dismiss the asbestos claim against that defendant. The plaintiff may refile the case against the dismissed defendant if the plaintiff establishes a connection to the company and satisfies the required disclosures.

Ohio has been a leader in asbestos litigation reform and is often viewed as a model by the rest of the country. Senate Bill 63 follows that lead. It will reduce legal costs that innocent Ohio companies are presently forced to pay to obtain dismissal from cases in which they never should have been named. At the same time, the bill is fair to plaintiffs and will speed up the resolution of meritorious cases. Companies that were responsible for a plaintiff's injury will remain accountable for any harm they cause.

The OMA appreciates the leadership of the bill sponsor on this issue and urges the committee to support this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsey Short". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsey Short  
Director, Public Policy Services  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association