



Dear Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and members of the House Development Committee:

My name is Boris Zilberman and I serve as the Director of Public Policy and Strategy for the CUFI Action Fund, the policy arm of Christians United for Israel – a 10 million strong organization, with over 400,000 members here in Ohio.

House Bill 188 would create the Ohio-Israel Trade and Innovation Partnership, joining states around our nation with similar bilateral agreements, to form a win-win for the people of Ohio and Israel. The State of Israel is not only one of the most innovative and developed economies in the Middle East, but it punches far beyond its weight globally in sectors such as technology, medicine, agriculture and defense to name just a few. In fact, Israel’s economic promise was one of the leading reasons for the historic Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and many of its Arab neighbors.

Ohio has an opportunity to build not only in quantity of trade with Israel but in quality. Israel is known as the “Start-up Nation” and partnerships such as this can help small business’ take their next big step and help already large-scale operations come up with innovative solutions ensure that their growth trajectory remains strong. Most importantly, both Ohio and Israel have an innovative can-do spirit to ensure that the next generation is best positioned for success.

By advancing this legislation and creating this partnership, Israeli and Ohioan entrepreneurs can improve the lives of not only their employees but that of their respective communities both here and in Israel.

Thank you for considering this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Boris Zilberman  
Director of Public Policy and Strategy  
CUFI Action Fund