

My name is Barbara Ewing, and I am the CEO of the Youngstown Business Incubator. I am providing this written testimony in support of HB 188, an initiative to formalize relationships between the state of Ohio and Israel.

The Youngstown Business Incubator is a tech based economic development organization that provides services in northeast Ohio. YBI is part of the JumpStart Entrepreneurship Network, funded through the Ohio Third Frontier, the host for the Minority Business Assistance Center for the eastern corridor of Ohio, a provider of advanced manufacturing services to both industry and government partners in additive manufacturing and Industrial IOT, as well as having STEM career programming for youth. YBI is the home of America Makes, the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute, and is partnered with them on the development of the Youngstown Innovation Hub for Aerospace and Defense.

YBI has seen firsthand the benefits of engaging with companies from Israel as they work to launch into the US market. In 2017, we took our first trip to Israel with then Youngstown State University President, Jim Tressel. Throughout the many meetings with industry, government, and academic leaders, it was clear that relationships with US entities provides real value to Israeli companies as they seek to launch into the US market.

Since that time, YBI has worked with multiple companies from the region as they work to enter the US market. While the Covid 19 pandemic disrupted many of those startups, we are rebuilding those relationships and are currently working with four Israeli startups in the commercialization of their products. This includes a formal partnership with XJet, who has developed the leading technology in ceramic additive manufacturing; Droxi AI, a healthcare platform that facilitates communication for clinicians; Dormotech, a medical device company, and Algocell, an AI application for advanced manufacturing.

As Ohio continues to rebuild its economy around advanced technologies, Israel can be a critical partner in the process. Ohio simply cannot allow other states to take advantage of the technologies and innovation that comes out of the region without also being at the table.



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If a small community like Youngstown can take advantage of these relationships to rebuild our economy, imagine the opportunities available to the rest of the state of Ohio. With our strong network of technology entrepreneurship programs through the Entrepreneurial Services Program, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and other technology based economic development programs, Ohio is well positioned to serve as the launch pad for Israeli technologies into the US market.

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