



Representative Ty Mathews
House District 83

Development Committee, Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 291
May 28th, 2025

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

Thank you, Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 291.

This bill represents an important step forward for Ohio's economic future by establishing the Ohio International Trade Commission. As our global economy evolves, so too must Ohio's approach to fostering international partnerships, expanding trade, and supporting innovation. House Bill 291 ensures that Ohio is positioned to compete and thrive on the world stage.

The Ohio International Trade Commission will advance multilateral trade and investment between Ohio and key partner nations, including Japan, Ireland, Israel, and others designated by the Director of Development. The commission will facilitate joint research agreements—particularly in areas such as electronic and cyber warfare capabilities—promote business and academic exchanges and support the creation of technology centers to drive collaboration between Ohio's academic and business communities.

Through these efforts, the commission will strengthen Ohio's economic ties, encourage mutual investment in infrastructure, and foster lasting relationships that benefit our citizens and businesses. By updating our laws and creating this commission, we are taking a proactive approach to securing Ohio's economic interests and ensuring that our state remains a leader in international trade and innovation.

House Bill 291 also establishes a diverse and knowledgeable commission membership, drawing from the General Assembly, the business community, and representatives of our partner nations. The commission will operate transparently, issue annual reports, and have the ability to raise funds to support its mission.

I urge your support for House Bill 291 as we work together to build a stronger, more prosperous Ohio through international cooperation and economic development.

Thank you for your consideration.