

60th House District:
Part of Delaware County

Columbus Office:
Vern Riffe Center 77 S. High
Street 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio

Contact:
(614) 644-6711
Rep60@ohiohouse.gov



Brian Lorenz
State Representative

Committees:

**Vice Chair: Development
Insurance
Local Government
Transportation**

Chairman Hoops, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and esteemed members of the Ohio House Development Committee - thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on Substitute House Bill 147, which if passed, would support economic development, improve infrastructure investment, and would remove unnecessary barriers for those who are trying to build Ohio's future.

At its core, Sub. H.B. 147 addresses a real and recurring challenge faced by construction contractors and developers, specifically those working in partnership with port authorities. These partnerships are essential to the success of many transformative projects happening across Ohio.

I have had conversations with contractors and developers in which they have expressed their concerns regarding the challenges that they are facing while working with port authorities. Currently, applications for tax exemptions vary greatly based on the port authority. Sub. H.B. 147 seeks to bring clarity, consistency, and fairness to this process.

This bill amends sections 5739.02 and 5739.03 to ensure that when a project includes at least twenty-five million dollars in expenditures and meets the definition of a public infrastructure improvement, which this bill clearly defines, then the sales tax exemption for construction materials used in that improvement must be granted. If the project was unreasonably denied by a port authority, then the developer may propose the project to the Tax Credit Authority.

These are not hypothetical cases. In many of these projects, private developers are making significant upfront investments to construct public-use assets like roads, water lines, and utilities, which greatly benefit the citizens of the area. These developers are investing and providing for the very infrastructure that enables economic growth and benefits the public. Our government should take the initiative to incentivize construction and development across our state, by creating a clear process for tax credits on said development.

This legislation has been crafted with input from stakeholders in the construction and development industries. In the broader picture, Sub. H.B. 147 helps Ohio remain competitive. Other states are increasingly aggressive in leveraging public-private partnerships and streamlining their tax environments to attract investment.

Chairman, members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this legislation. I am open to any questions that the committee may have.