



# Mark Hiner

## State Representative

**Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 284**  
House Development Committee  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and members of the House Development Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 284.

House Bill 284 is a bipartisan, common-sense proposal that aims to uplift businesses and workers across America—and most importantly, right here in Ohio. This legislation is simple and straightforward: it requires that state-funded projects be constructed American-made steel and iron.

This change ensures that Ohio's infrastructure is built with high-quality, American-produced materials—materials that support our domestic supply chain, promote manufacturing jobs, and help ensure our state investments stand the test of time.

Now, I would love to take credit for the idea behind this bill—but the foundation was actually laid nearly 50 years ago in the late 70s when the steel requirement was put in place. House Bill 284 simply expands that statute to include iron, aligning the law with the original spirit of buying American, and ensuring consistency across the board.

Being a part of the rust belt, Ohio has a rich history in iron and steel production, and our state continues to be a leader in these industries. Notably, McWane Ductile, located in my district -- in Coshocton, is a prime example of the kind of company that stands to benefit from this legislation. They produce high-quality ductile iron products that are essential for infrastructure projects, and supporting such businesses means supporting Ohio jobs and communities.



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Furthermore, with the processes already established for verifying and enforcing the use of American-made steel, extending these procedures to include iron will be seamless. The existing framework provides a clear blueprint, ensuring that implementation of this bill will be efficient and effective.

It's also worth noting that Ohio would not be alone in this endeavor. States like Texas, Oregon, Florida and a slew of others have enacted similar legislation requiring the use of American-made iron and steel in public works projects. By aligning with these states, Ohio reaffirms its commitment to supporting domestic manufacturing and ensuring the highest quality materials are used in our infrastructure.

In conclusion, House Bill 284 is about more than just materials; it's about investing in our state's economy, supporting our workers, and ensuring that Ohio's infrastructure is built to last. I urge your support for this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.