



**Written Testimony Provided by
Mr. Jeff Hoagland, President and CEO, Dayton Development Coalition
on House Bill 291
Ohio House Development Committee
Proponent Testimony – June 11, 2025**

Chair Hoops, Vice-Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and members of the House Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written proponent testimony on House Bill 291, creating the Ohio International Trade Commission.

The Dayton Development Coalition is a regional economic development organization whose mission is to support job creation and opportunity for the citizens of the Dayton Region. In addition, the Dayton Development Coalition works closely with aerospace and defense partners to promote Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

We commend Representative Mathews and Representative Santucci for sponsoring this important piece of legislation enhancing Ohio's relationships internationally. In today's economy, global relationships are vital for continued economic success. The Dayton Region has benefited from international investment from companies such as Honda's new battery plant in Fayette County, Italian transformer manufacturer Westrafo in Montgomery County, and Canadian landing gear supplier Héroux-Devtek in Clark County.

House Bill 291 will compliment ongoing international development by demonstrating that Ohio's legislature is serious about driving innovation, partnerships, and trade. The bill's provisions will strengthen relationships with partner nations, drive economic investment, and enhance Ohio's business community. House Bill 291 has the potential to advance aerospace and defense, a key sector in our region, with the Ohio International Trade Commission facilitating joint research agreements with partner nations.

This legislation will continue to move our economy forward and unite efforts throughout the state to bring the next global investment to Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 291 and I urge your support.