

Chair Hoops, Co-Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and honorable members of the Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify against House Bill 188.

The program proposed in HB 188 would place \$10 million Ohio taxpayer dollars into an international, political project even as the Trump Administration announces it will not fund food assistance (SNAP) during the federal shutdown. [Ohio's response](#) indicates the state may not step in to help struggling families. Tens of thousands face hunger. This is the worst possible time to commit millions of Ohio taxpayer dollars to an international venture.

HB 188 lacks accountability, with no performance reporting requirements, independent oversight, or safeguards to ensure the sound use of funds and concrete public benefit. No \$10 million expenditure—no expenditure whatsoever— should be considered without guardrails to ensure accountability and public benefit.

HB 188 proposes an undefined series of hearings and activities centered around a partnership with Israel. While Israel is an important nation and of great interest to many Ohioans, it is also currently under international investigation for crimes against humanity. There could hardly be a worse time to consider this political proposal.

I believe Ohio's resources should remain in Ohio to build our own communities' economies. I oppose HB 188 for the reasons stated.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.