



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF
—RADON PROFESSIONALS—

Testimony of Jessica Karns

Board Member of the Ohio Association of Radon Professionals

Before the Ohio House of Representatives General Government Committee

November 4, 2025

Re: Addressing the proposed HB59- Delicensing of the Ohio Radon Program

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and esteemed members of the House General Government Committee.

My name is Jessica Karns, and I appear before you today as a Board Member and Officer of the Ohio Association of Radon Professionals (OARP), the largest trade organization representing radon professionals in Ohio. OARP is also an affiliate chapter of the Indoor Environments Association (IEA), formerly known as AARST, the leading national trade organization for radon professionals.

I have held an Ohio Radon Measurement License for over 15 years and currently maintain licensure or certification in more than 45 states. I also serve as the Multi-Family Chairperson for the ANSI/AARST National Radon Measurement Standards Committee, a position I have held for the past nine years.

I am here today to speak in strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Radon Measurement Licensure in the State of Ohio.

The Risk in Ohio

To understand the gravity of this proposal, we must first look at the data.

The **EPA's Radon Zone Map**—a national tool used by professionals, regulators, and government agencies—identifies areas of elevated radon risk by county.

Of Ohio's 88 counties:

- **53** are designated as **Zone 1**, meaning **over 50% of buildings** are statistically likely to have dangerous radon levels.
- The remaining **35 counties** are **Zone 2**, with an estimated **45% of buildings** testing above the EPA action level.
- **No Ohio counties** fall into **Zone 3**, the lowest-risk category.

Radon exposure is not a localized issue—it is a statewide public health threat.

Each year in Ohio, over 2,500 new cases of radon-induced lung cancer are diagnosed. According to the National Institutes of Health Cancer Institute, the direct treatment cost per case averages \$205,000, amounting to more than \$524 million annually in preventable healthcare costs to Ohio taxpayers.



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF
—RADON PROFESSIONALS—

Ohio's National Leadership

Ohio has long been recognized as a national model for radon regulation and professional licensure. The Ohio Radon Mitigation Standards (ORMS) and Ohio Administrative Code have been cited repeatedly by other states as the gold standard for developing effective radon programs.

This success did not happen by chance—it came from years of collaboration, expertise, and foresight from legislators and professionals alike. Some of you here today helped shape these policies, and the result has been improved public health, professional accountability, and consumer protection.

The Consequences of Eliminating Licensure

Eliminating the Radon Measurement Licensure would not streamline industry—it would cripple it.

Currently, there are 952 licensed radon measurement professionals in Ohio. Under this proposal, these individuals would be prohibited from performing radon testing unless they obtain a mitigation specialist license—an unnecessary, costly, and burdensome requirement that would drive many out of business.

This change would reduce small business opportunities, not expand them, and it would undermine consumer trust in the reliability of radon data.

The Importance of Measurement Expertise

Radon measurement is not a simple process of placing a test kit and waiting for results. Professionals must understand:

- The physics of radon decay and particle behavior.
- Building science, including HVAC mechanics and air exchange.
- The stack effect, pressure differentials, and airflow patterns.
- Exposure calculations and hazard assessment protocols.



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF
—RADON PROFESSIONALS—

The measurement license ensures professionals possess this critical knowledge. The mitigation license, on the other hand, focuses on designing and installing systems to remove radon—it does not cover the science or methodology of accurate measurement.

Without a separate measurement licensure, we will see an increase in inaccurate or fraudulent test results, as has occurred in states without licensing requirements—such as South Carolina, Georgia, and Michigan.

In those states, I have personally reviewed several reports from untrained individuals that often misrepresent radon levels, giving homeowners a false sense of safety while they unknowingly remain exposed to carcinogenic gas.

Conclusion

What may appear to be a measure for deregulation and efficiency would in fact have the opposite effect—it would:

- Eliminate jobs for qualified professionals.
- Reduce consumer protection.
- Compromise data integrity; and
- Put Ohio families at greater risk of lung cancer.

Ohio has set the national example for responsible radon regulation. To dismantle that system now would undo decades of progress in protecting public health.

I urge you to reject the proposed elimination of the Radon Measurement Licensure and instead reaffirm Ohio's commitment to safety, professionalism, and scientific integrity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.