



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration
Office 614-728-5458
Fax 614-466-5087

April 28, 2025

Honorable Cindy Abrams, Chair
House Public Safety Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman Abrams,

I write today to offer my support for House Bill 1, the Ohio Property Protection Act. The legislation would provide important protections for our state and national security.

Under recent law, foreign adversaries of the United States are prohibited from purchasing farmland in Ohio. House Bill 1 would expand that prohibition to include any property within 25 miles of a critical infrastructure facility or a U.S. military base, camp, or airport.

The bill combines the resources of both state and local governments to ensure property transactions are reviewed and the legislation is enforced. The language requires the Secretary of State's office to review and update the list of foreign adversaries regularly. County auditors and local prosecutors would oversee documentation and any necessary legal action.

As you know, Ohio is home to 11.8 million people and over 2 dozen Fortune500 companies. Importantly, our state is also within a day's drive of 60% of the U.S. population. Ohio truly is 'the heart of it all.' This means we have a responsibility to secure sensitive properties, including military bases, airports and water treatment plants.

Finally, I believe the timing of this bill is important. As Ohio looks to take a leading role in energy generation, it is vital that we protect our electric grid from those looking for opportunities to attack America on our own soil. House Bill 1 would label our critical infrastructure, such as power stations and telecommunications facilities, as protected property.

I thank Representatives King and Klopfenstein, as well as Senator Johnson, for their leadership on this issue. I would be happy to discuss this bill with you or any members of the committee at their convenience.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General