

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 4/29/2025

Name: Kelsey Johnson

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Global Business Alliance

Position/Title: Vice President, State Affairs

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Best Contact Telephone: 6514022475 Email: kjohnson@globalbusiness.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☒

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 1

Specific Issue: Ohio Property Protection Act

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☒

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 0

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

The Global Business Alliance represents 200 global companies from allied nations, many of whom have a footprint in Ohio. Ohio has over 322,000 Ohioans employed by global companies. Because of the large amount of global investment in Ohio, GBA recommends following United States Code and conforming as closely as possible to fed

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



April 29, 2025

The Honorable Cindy Abrams
Chair, Ohio House Public Safety Committee
State Capitol Building
77 South High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: GBA Requests Amendments to HB 1 (King) – Enact Ohio Property Protection Act

Dear Chair Abrams,

On behalf of the Global Business Alliance (GBA), I am writing to request that you amend HB 1 (King), which would ban “foreign adversaries” from owning real property in the state. While we respect the Ohio Legislature’s commitment to safeguarding local interests, we are concerned about the message that HB 1 (King) will send to current and future employers in the state. This bill, as written, risks undermining the ability of foreign companies to grow in Ohio and jeopardizing the economic benefits their investment brings to the state.

GBA represents nearly 200 leading international companies, all of whom are major U.S. employers. On average, GBA members each employ 12,000 U.S. workers, and these companies are all globally headquartered in countries that are long-time friends and allies of the United States. In Ohio specifically, over 1,321 international companies employ nearly 322,900 Ohioans.¹

Over the past five years, employment at global companies in Ohio has increased by thirteen percent, while Ohio’s overall private sector only increased by an eighth of a percent. Nationally, on average, these firms pay American workers \$89,000 annually in wages and benefits. See more [information](#) on the ways international companies support Ohio’s economy.

Global companies in Ohio include food companies, equipment manufacturers, banks, data centers, energy technology companies, bio and life science companies, advanced and traditional manufacturing.

The legislation would prohibit “foreign adversaries” from owning property. Similar legislation has passed in other states and GBA has worked with governments across the country to recommend that such legislation

¹ Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Survey of Current Business, Activities of U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Multinational Enterprises in 2020, released August 2023.

As the premier advocacy resource for international companies in the United States, the Global Business Alliance (GBA), actively promotes and defends an open economy that welcomes international companies to invest in America. Our members are American companies with global heritage and an indispensable part of our nation’s economic success. When America is open for business, we all benefit.

closely mirror federal law to achieve the drafter's objectives while continuing to support economic growth, investment, and job creation. For instance, Kentucky recently adopted [HB315](#), which closely mirrors federal law and protects many global companies' investment in Kentucky.

Specifically, GBA recommends that HB 1, be amended to follow U.S. law to ensure compliance and prevent misalignment. GBA recommends the following changes;

- Define "U.S. person" as 22 U.S.C. § 6010
- Define "foreign adversary" as 15 CFR § 7.4

The proposed changes will conform the legislation to current federal law and ensure that Ohio manufacturers can continue providing good quality jobs, and welcome new and future investment into Ohio.

Please see additional information enclosed. For the reasons summarized above, I urge you to amend this legislation to mirror current federal law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Johnson', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Kelsey Johnson
Vice President, State Affairs
Global Business Alliance

Enclosure

cc: Members of the Ohio House Public Safety Committee



GLOBAL
BUSINESS
ALLIANCE

Investing in America

Foreign Direct Investment Strengthens OHIO'S ECONOMY

HIGH-QUALITY JOBS

322,900 workers in Ohio are employed as a result of international investment.

MANUFACTURING

175,400 workers in Ohio - **54 percent** of all FDI jobs in the state - are in the manufacturing sector.

GLOBALLY CONNECTED

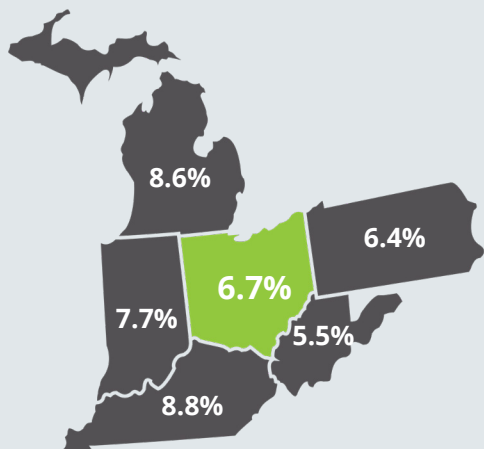
Among all international employers, those from **Japan**, **Germany** and the **United Kingdom** support the largest number of jobs in Ohio.

MANY EMPLOYERS

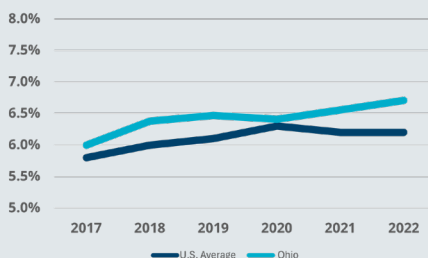
1,321 international employers have operations in Ohio.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONTRIBUTES TO OHIO'S ECONOMY

Ohio vs. Its Neighbors
FDI Jobs as a % of Total Employment

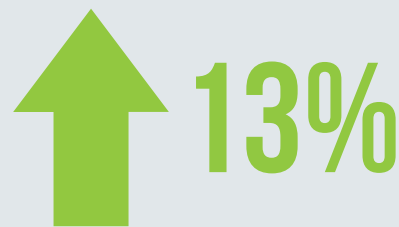


Ohio vs. USA
FDI Jobs as a % of Total Employment



Ohio beats the national average in its portion of jobs supported by international investment.

From 2017 to 2022, Ohio's FDI employment...



while the state's overall private-sector employment



DISCOVER THE FULL LIST OF GBA MEMBERS

Nearly 200 international companies comprise GBA's membership, representing a slice of the U.S. economy that provides 8.4 million high-quality jobs that pay an average of seven percent higher compensation than the economy-wide average. Our members are some of the largest international employers in the country. Browse through our membership list using the QR code.

