

Testimony Opposing HB 1 — Ohio Property Protection Act

Submitted by: Jay Qutiefan

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Jay Qutiefan, and I'm here today as the daughter of immigrants and a business owner in Ohio.

My parents came to this state with nothing but hope for a better life. They built businesses, contributed to the economy, and raised a family rooted in hard work and community. I now own businesses of my own, including one with international operations. My father owns a road construction and trucking company. We're not the exception; we represent thousands of immigrant families across Ohio who have invested in this state and helped it grow.

HB 1 puts all of that at risk.

This bill would block immigrants and dual citizens from buying certain properties especially near rail lines or infrastructure if they're from countries on a list the state deems "foreign adversaries." That list isn't fixed. It can change at any time. That means people like my family, who pay taxes and follow the law, could be denied property rights overnight because of their background.

Let's be honest—this is discrimination dressed up as security.

Immigrants are not a threat to Ohio. We are the reason many parts of this state are thriving. In Columbus alone, I've seen how immigrant businesses turned empty land into vibrant communities. These restrictions don't protect us, they hurt small business owners, push out job creators, and punish working families who are just trying to succeed.

This is government overreach. It's bad for the economy, bad for business, and bad for Ohio's future.

I urge you to reject HB 1 or remove the harmful provisions that target immigrants and dual citizens. Our communities deserve better.

Thank you.