

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1
Submitted by: Yanfei Zhang
Testifying as Opponent

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the Ohio House Public Safety Committee

My name is Yanfei Zhang, I live in Chesterland Ohio, and I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity as a concerned citizen who is strongly opposed to House Bill 1 in its entirety.

Labeling individuals based on their nationality and restricting their rights is discriminatory and undermines the principles of equality and justice that Ohio should uphold. The proposed "Alien Land Law" in Ohio fosters an environment of fear and mistrust, directly contradicting our values of inclusivity.

Furthermore, H.B. 1 will not serve Ohio's best interests in retaining skilled and talented workers. In today's global economy, our state thrives on the contributions of individuals from diverse backgrounds. By creating a hostile environment for Chinese nationals, this bill will undoubtedly deter them from choosing Ohio as a place to live, work, and invest, thereby harming our local economy. We risk losing valuable talent who could contribute significantly to our communities and industries.

It is crucial to recognize that H.B. 1 is a dangerous echo of discriminatory policies from our nation's past, specifically the old forest land exclusion bills and the Chinese Exclusion Act. These shameful laws were eventually overturned because they were fundamentally unjust and ran counter to American ideals. We must learn from history and not repeat these mistakes.

I implore you to consider the detrimental impact of H.B. 1 on our state's reputation, economy, and moral standing. I urge you to stand against this discriminatory legislation and vote no. Let us work towards a future where all individuals are treated with fairness and respect in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Yanfei Zhang
Chesterland, Ohio