

**To:** Chair and Members of the House Safety Committee

**From:** Jianyue Zhang

**Date:** May 19, 2025

**Position:** Opponent

**Bill:** HB 1 – Ohio Property Protection Act

**Dear Chair Cindy Abrams, and Members of the Committee:**

My name is Jianyue Zhang, a resident of Dublin, Ohio, and I submit this testimony in **opposition to House Bill 1**, also known as the Ohio Property Protection Act.

While I recognize the intent behind HB 1 — to enhance national security and safeguard strategic land — I believe that the bill, as currently drafted, raises significant concerns regarding its **overbreadth, potential for discrimination, and unintended economic consequences**.

**1. Overly Broad and Ambiguous Language**

The bill defines “foreign adversaries” and “restricted foreign parties” in vague and sweeping terms, potentially encompassing individuals and businesses with legitimate, long-standing ties to Ohio. This **lack of precision** could lead to unjust denials of property rights to legal immigrants, international students, and foreign investors who contribute positively to our communities.

**2. Negative Economic Impact**

Foreign investment plays a vital role in Ohio’s economy, particularly in **agriculture, manufacturing, automotive industry, and education**. By broadly restricting property purchases, HB 1 could deter multinational businesses from locating or expanding in Ohio, harming job creation and local tax revenues. International partnerships, university collaboration, and real estate markets may also suffer setbacks. For example, we have lots of international students and researchers studying and working at the Ohio State University, and they made enormous contributions to ensure the leadership in agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and medical education. The negative part of this bill will lead to unexpected damage to the related industries at Ohio.

**3. Risk of Discrimination and Legal Challenge**

The bill may open the door to **discrimination based on national origin**, potentially violating constitutional protections and federal laws. Restricting land ownership solely based on country of origin — without clear, evidence-based national security justification — raises serious **ethical and legal concerns**.

#### 4. Existing Safeguards Already in Place

Federal mechanisms such as the **Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)** already assess and block high-risk real estate transactions involving critical infrastructure and sensitive assets. Duplicating or expanding these measures at the state level without clarity or coordination risks redundancy and legal confusion.

---

**To sum up**, I urge this committee to **reconsider the scope and necessity of HB 1**. While protecting Ohio's security is a shared priority, we must ensure that our legislative responses are **measured, constitutionally sound, and economically prudent**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I am available for any questions the committee may have.

**Sincerely,**

Jianyue Zhang, PhD  
zhang.12278@osu.edu  
6149351179  
Dublin, OH