

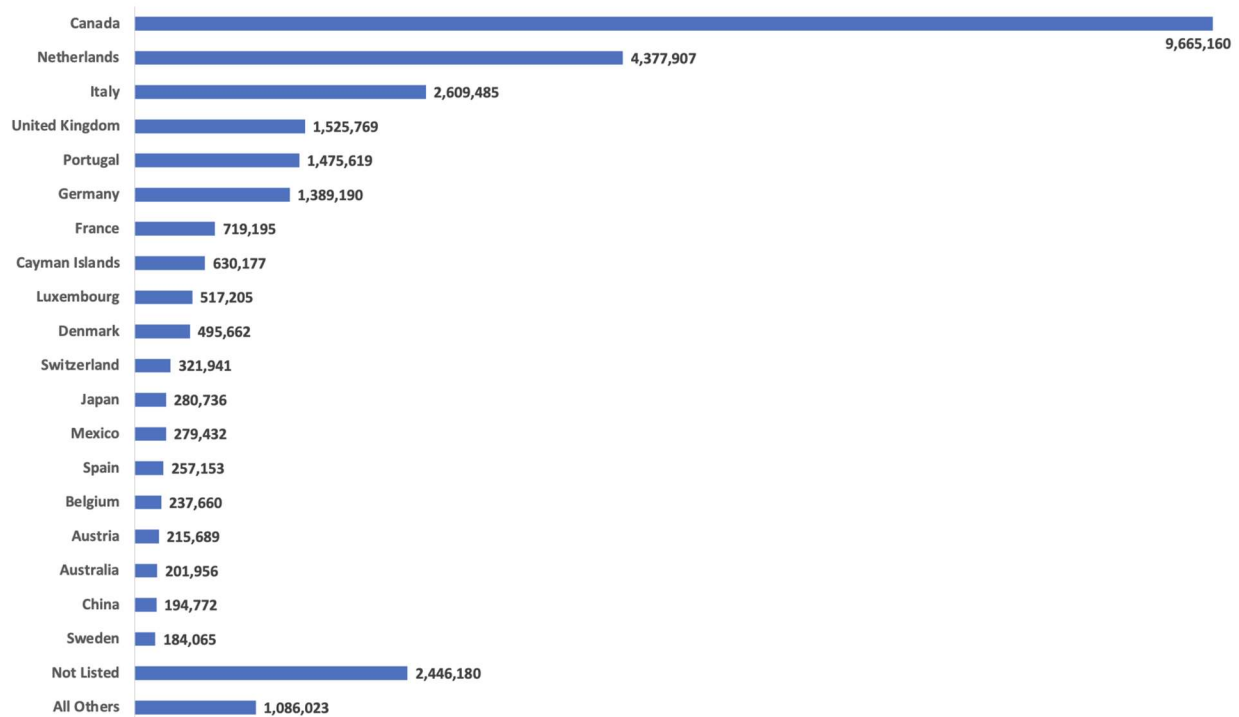
**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 1**  
**Submitted by: SongTao Liu**  
**Testifying as Opponent**

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the Public Safety Education Committee:

I am writing to express grave concerns about OH-HB1, which is under consideration in your committee. My name is SongTao Liu. I am a first generation immigrant and currently a US citizen. I am a Professor at the University of Toledo, and have lived in Sylvania, Ohio in the past 18 years. I actually purchased my home when I was still a permanent resident.

The HB1 is supposed to target foreign adversaries including China. According to FBI, "To be clear, the adversary is not the Chinese people or people of Chinese descent or heritage." (<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence/the-china-threat>). However, the HB1 specifically targets individuals or businesses based on nation of origin including all law-abiding permanent residents and legal visa holders. The proposed Bill explicitly precludes the above mentioned people to acquire even residential properties within the 25 mile radius of any "critical infrastructure facility", or attempts to force people to disown their properties. Due to the all-ranging definition of "critical infrastructure facility", this would essentially bar any ownership of property of the affected people in the entire Ohio. In other words, if I were to keep my permanent residency, I most likely would also have to sell my home when the bill passed.

Ohio was and is still known for its Midwestern style hospitality to all guests. Why do we have to scare ourselves now to become a leader in the hating campaign? A simple internet search also found the following figure depicting total acres of foreign-owned land by country of origin in 2021 (from <https://cap.unl.edu/news/do-only-americans-own-america-foreign-investment-agricultural-lands-united-states/#:~:text=This%20amounts%20to%203.1%25%20of,this%20list%20at%20194%2C772%20acres>)



If the committee really concerns about foreign owned properties in Ohio, should you focus on investigating the top ranking countries in the above figure did NOT cause any negative impact on the local housing market or agriculture land?

As you know, there are many faculty, staff, and students originally from foreign countries now living in the Sylvania and Toledo area because of the appeal of Lourdes University and the University of Toledo. Some students stayed on and started businesses in the area after graduation. Many employees of First Solar, Owens-Illinois or other big companies in our area came from China but now resided in the Sylvania and other nearby townships. They play pivotal roles in the economic development of our area. If there is anything Ohio needs to do to maintain its competitive edge in the era of new economy, some policy should be in place to attract these talents to stay and invest in this area and in Ohio. Why do we want to alienate all these current and potential residents and businesses that have benefited and will benefit Ohio's economic development? Since when the Ohioans have become so less confident and even hostile to the legal newcomers?

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1 to ensure Ohio remains a welcoming state for all its residents. Thank you for your time.