

To: Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and other honorable members of the House Public Safety Committee

Subject: Opponent Testimony on House Bill 1 – Ohio Property Protection Act

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony opposing House Bill 1 (HB1), the Ohio Property Protection Act, introduced on January 23, 2025. As a lawful permanent resident, proud Dayton resident, and member of Ohio's vibrant Chinese community, I urge you to reject HB1. This bill, alongside its companion, Senate Bill 88 (SB88), threatens to fracture our state's communities, devastate our economy, and unfairly target Chinese Ohioans like me. The bills also risk violating constitutional protections, undermining the rights of permanent residents like me.

My journey in America began in 2007. I earned a doctorate, married my wife, a fellow Chinese national, welcomed two children, and worked at two U.S. research institutes. I also launched two businesses and purchased two homes in Dayton. These homes are the bedrock of our family's stability, where my children grow, laugh, and dream. They symbolize our pursuit of the American Dream. Yet, HB1 and SB88 endanger this dream with overly broad restrictions that are unnecessary to protect national interests. By prohibiting "restricted persons" from acquiring property within a 25-mile radius of military installations and critical infrastructure—effectively encompassing nearly all of Ohio's livable land—these bills cast a shadow over lawful residents like me.

Under HB1's Sec. 5301.256(B)(3), "restricted persons" include citizens of "foreign adversaries" like China, encompassing permanent residents and dual-intent visa holders (e.g., H-1B). These are people who have called Ohio home for years, contributing as neighbors, innovators, and taxpayers. If HB1 passes, I would lose the right to purchase property, stifling my businesses. More alarmingly, SB88's divestment requirement could force my family to sell our homes within two years, uprooting our children's lives and pushing us to relocate outside Ohio. This is not just policy—it's a heartbreak for thousands of families across Dayton, Dublin, and Oxford.

With an estimated 15,000–20,000 Chinese Ohioans potentially labeled "restricted persons," the economic and social toll is staggering. Studies show first-generation immigrants are twice as likely to start businesses than native-born Americans. Forced divestment could shutter these enterprises, affecting workers far beyond my family. If 15,000–20,000 Chinese Ohioans leave, taking their families and ventures, Ohio faces a cascade of closed shops, lost jobs, and diminished revenue. Cities like Dayton, where I've built my life, would lose the cultural vibrancy that makes Ohio strong. Moreover, HB1 and

SB88 deter future talent from “adversary countries,” choking Ohio’s ability to attract global innovators. In Dayton, Chinese professionals and students drive research and education, while Dublin’s tech sector thrives on diverse talent. These bills send a chilling message: Ohio is closed to those who would build its future. X posts echo fears that such policies foster division, painting Chinese Ohioans as outsiders rather than neighbors.

Transparency is another casualty. The vague definitions of “foreign adversaries” and “critical infrastructure” invite arbitrary enforcement, eroding trust in our state government. The Ohio Secretary of State’s registry, referenced in SB88, lacks public clarity, leaving families like mine in uncertainty. I urge the committee to release HB1’s full text, hold open hearings, and listen to Dayton’s Chinese community, who fear being unfairly targeted.

In conclusion, HB1 and SB88 threaten Ohio’s economy, communities, and values. I respectfully implore the House Government Oversight Committee to reject HB1 or amend it with clear definitions, fair processes, and criteria that avoid targeting lawful residents. Ohio shines because of its 34,193 foreign-born Chinese residents, who build homes, businesses, and futures here. Protect our contributions, preserve our dreams, and keep Ohio a welcoming home for all.

Sincerely,
Yuxing Wang
Dayton, Ohio Resident