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PRO - FAMILY LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

A DIVISION OF WALLBUILDERS

Testimony before the House Public Safety Committee Regarding HB 1
March 17, 2026

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

My name is Bette Grande, I am Policy Director for the Pro-Family Legislative Network and was asked to submit testimony on HB 1 by Rep. King. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

"Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals, as that which the term particularly expressed. This being the end of government, that alone is a just government, which impartially secures to every man, whatever he owns." James Madison, Property (29 Mar. 1792: papers 14:266-68)

This bill comes before you at an important time. When our borders were wide open millions of people came into our country, knowing that some came in with the intent and ability to do harm should be taken seriously by policy makers. We are also well aware that certain countries and terrorist groups wish to do us harm. The lives, happiness, and property of the people of Ohio rely on Ohio's critical infrastructure including agricultural land and HB 1 is a straightforward and proactive solution.

Critical infrastructure includes utility facilities, transmission lines, pipelines, water supplies, transportation, and government facilities like military bases. Some of these are more secure than others but the operation of each is compromised if the adjacent property is owned and/or controlled by bad actors.

Several states have passed or are considering laws to protect the critical infrastructures in their states, such as Oklahoma (HB 1123 (2017), North Dakota (SB 2024 (1019), and North Carolina (SB 58 (2023). These bills impose fines and criminal punishment for trespassing and damage done to the critical infrastructure facilities. That is good policy, but HB 1 utilizes a statute on the books to proactively address the ownership of property adjacent to critical infrastructure facilities. Bad actors can of course simply lie on the required attestation, but the Bill includes enforcement provisions to deal with that as well. Prevention, by imposing a protective barrier around critical infrastructure facilities and agricultural land reduces the risk of damage and helps

to ensure the safety and access to food supplies, water, and energy sources for the people of Ohio.

Reports of foreign entities, known gangs, cartels and criminal enterprises seeking to acquire property close to military bases and other critical infrastructure are widespread across the country. Ohio is not alone in dealing with this threat. The primary role of government is to protect the lives, rights, and property of its citizens and HB 1 is a powerful step in that direction.

HB 1 accomplishes this in a simple and straightforward manner by using existing statutes and existing government. It is the duty of the Government to serve the people of Ohio by protecting the land. HB 1 will provide safety and security for the citizens of your state, surrounding states, and the nation. Ensuring food security and infrastructure security is a part of national security.

For Liberty,

Bette Grande

Bette Grande
Policy Director for Pro-Family Legislative Network
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