Testimony Against the Sub H.B. 1
Submitted by: Xiaoli Chen
Testifying as Opponent

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the latest substitute version of House Bill 1 (Sub HB1). My name is Xiaoli Chen, and I live in Westlake, Ohio. I am asking this committee to oppose the HB 1 Sub-bill.

Although I'm already a citizen, I strongly oppose the sub-bill because it would prohibit immigrants from owning property within ten miles of an extremely broad list of so-called "critical infrastructure." This definition is very expansive that it effectively includes nearly every essential utility and communications system in the state — electrical grids, telecommunications lines, water and sewer systems, fiber-optic networks, and radio and television facilities. Such an overly broad restriction represents an unprecedented level of government overreach.

Although the sub-bill exempts green card holders and military personnel, it still targets law-abiding immigrants and long-time residents solely based on their nationality. This includes international workers and students who live, study, and contribute to Ohio's economy and communities.

HB 1 would also harm Ohio's economic competitiveness. It sends a chilling message to global talent and investment at a time when our state should be attracting innovation, research, and economic growth. It could discourage investment, drive away skilled professionals, and complicate ordinary real-estate transactions.

If there are legitimate national security concerns, they should be addressed through evidence-based reviews of genuinely risky transactions — not through sweeping bans that unfairly single out people based on where they come from.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote **NO on Substitute HB 1**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.