



**Testimony in Support of HB 568**  
**Ohio House Small Business Committee**

**Jordan Leopold**

President, Superior

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today in support of Ohio House Bill 568.

My name is Jordan Leopold, and I serve as President of Superior, an electrical construction firm that has been headquartered in Ohio for 100 years.

Today, Superior employs more than 1500 skilled Electricians, Technicians, Engineers, and other construction professionals who help build essential projects throughout our state: hospitals, schools, airports, data centers, offices, and beyond.

Across Ohio, the projects taken on by Superior and thousands of other contractors are becoming larger, more complex, and faster-paced. While this growth is great for our communities and our state, it also increases the financial strain on construction firms like ours.

One of the primary drivers of that strain is retainage – the practice of withholding a significant portion of contract total until a project is completed.

Some people often describe retainage as a safety net for facility owners, but that's a misconception.

Owners already have robust protections in place to protect their project, including prequalification requirements, performance and payment bonds, warranties, insurance, contract terms, and a whole host of legal remedies.

With all of these targeted protections already in place, withholding 8%, 10%, or more of a contract's value is far too much.

Statewide, upwards of \$3 billion is tied up in retainage. These are hard-earned dollars that sit out of reach for many months – sometimes over a year – even after a project is finished. That's capital that could otherwise be reinvested into Ohio's workforce, businesses, and projects.

I want to be very clear: House Bill 568 does not eliminate retainage, and it does not dictate payment schedule. I want to repeat that again, because it's very important: This bill does not dictate any payment timing or schedule. That is left to individual contract negotiations.

This legislation simply sets a reasonable cap on retainage – up to 5% – for private construction contracts or subcontracts over \$1 million.

Importantly, this bill gives facility owners ample leverage to ensure the quality and completion of their project. In fact, this bill preserves all existing legal safeguards for facility owners and contractors to address any legitimate claims or disputes.

This is a practical, commonsense change, and it will make a real, immediate impact for companies large and small throughout Ohio. Every contractor in our state – general, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, steel, concrete, and more – will be financially stronger as a result of this bill. And, Ohio will join more than a dozen other states that have already adopted similar limits.

House Bill 568 is pro-business and pro-growth, and we would request your support for Ohio to adopt this reasonable policy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 568.

I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.