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HB 392 – Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and esteemed colleagues of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 392, the Ohio Right to Compute Act.

House Bill 392 is about ensuring that as artificial intelligence continues to develop and expand here in Ohio, we put in place reasonable guardrails that protect our citizens, our businesses, and our critical infrastructure, while still encouraging innovation and growth.

Ohio has quickly become a hub for new businesses and investment. We've seen historic growth in advanced manufacturing, data centers, and technology jobs. Artificial intelligence represents the next frontier, and if managed correctly, it can be a powerful tool that strengthens our economy, creates efficiencies, and improves lives. But if left unchecked, AI also carries risks: risks to critical infrastructure, to consumer protections, and to public trust.

This bill recognizes both realities. By putting in place safeguards for critical infrastructure and requiring risk management policies where AI is deployed in consequential ways, House Bill 392 ensures that Ohioans are protected from unintended negative consequences of this emerging technology.

At the same time, House Bill 392 provides regulatory certainty. Businesses want to know that they can invest in Ohio without fear of unclear or overly broad restrictions. By defining the guardrails up front, we make Ohio an attractive and stable environment for AI development, deployment, and investment. This approach makes sure we are not stifling innovation but instead allowing businesses to confidently take full advantage of AI's benefits while knowing that Ohio takes public safety seriously.

This legislation strikes a balance in embracing AI as an opportunity, while remaining accountable to its risks. It ensures Ohio leads the way not by blocking innovation, but by creating a thoughtful framework that both protects our citizens and welcomes investment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer my testimony, I am happy to answer any questions.