

CENTRAL MIDWEST

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF

CARPENTERS

Dear Chairman Richardson, Vice Chairman Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and Honorable Members of the Ohio House Veterans and Military Development Committee, My name is Jason Clark, the Political Director for the Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters (CMRCC). The CMRCC represents 39,000 members in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. We currently have 18,000 members in Ohio. We build the highways, schools, hospitals, and defense manufacturing facilities in Ohio and across the United States.

As an Ohio-based labor organization, I am writing in strong support of House Bill 292, legislation that establishes the Ohio Defense Commission and the Ohio Defense Fund. This bill represents a forward-looking commitment to strengthening Ohio's defense industry—an industry that is not only crucial to our state's economy, but also to our national security and global competitiveness.

Ohio has long been a leader in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and defense innovation. HB 292 will build on that foundation by improving coordination among businesses, academic institutions, and military partners, while ensuring the state can invest strategically in projects that drive technological advancement and workforce growth.

Creating the Ohio Defense Commission will give our state a unified voice in shaping defense policy and pursuing new federal

opportunities. Establishing the Ohio Defense Fund will provide For organizations like ours and the contractors we supply labor, HB 292 offers the tools to expand operations, increase competitiveness, and create more Ohio jobs. It demonstrates that Ohio is ready to lead on national defense priorities while strengthening our local economies and communities.

I respectfully urge the committee's favorable consideration and passage of House Bill 292.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
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