

Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
House Bill 10  
Interested Party Testimony  
October 14, 2025

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 10 as an interested party and answer any questions you may have.

My name is Dr. Heidi Coia, I live in Beavercreek, Ohio, and I serve as the Director of Tissue Engineering and Product Development at Nexture Bio located in Xenia. Nexture Bio is a leader in manufacturing key components that support the emerging cultivated meat industry. Our products are used by research and development teams across the country, and we are preparing to expand our manufacturing footprint here in Ohio, supporting local jobs and advancing Ohio leadership in life sciences.

I'm here because I share HB 10's goal of ensuring that consumers are informed and confident in the foods they buy. However, the provisions preventing cultivated meat procurement will unintentionally discourage food innovation and investment in Ohio. This would be a loss for Ohio, which could be a leader in developing the next generation of food and agricultural innovations: creating jobs and strengthening our position in the national economy.

Before getting into specific provisions of HB 10, I want to take a moment to explain how cultivated meat is regulated and why alternative proteins represent like cultivated meat such a promising opportunity for Ohio.

Cultivated meat, also known as cellular agriculture, is an emerging industry that produces meat directly from animal cells. It is safe, with products approved and inspected by both the FDA and USDA under rigorous, transparent processes developed across multiple administrations. Production happens in highly sterile environments, beyond food-grade standards, which means the risk of contamination or foodborne pathogens is dramatically reduced compared to conventional meat processing. Cultivated seafood, for example, could be a safe option for pregnant women who want to enjoy fish without exposure to mercury, lead, or microplastics.

I also want to make clear that cultivated meat, like other alternative proteins, is not a competitor to traditional agriculture; it's a complement. It creates new side-stream uses for crops and agricultural inputs and helps diversify protein production. And recent events—like bird flu outbreaks and volatile food prices—have shown that diversifying our food system is a strength, not a threat.

Other countries, like China, Singapore, and Russia, are already investing heavily in cultivated meat. And, when you consider that most seafood eaten in the U.S. is imported from other countries, you can see how cultivated technology could provide a key opportunity to produce more food here in America, even right here in Ohio.

On the labeling measures in HB 10: I commend the bill's commitment to clear, factual labeling. I just want to clarify that this is already how these products are marketed. Consumers will pay a premium for cultivated meat only because they know exactly what they're buying. And USDA-approved labels such as "cell-cultivated chicken" are factual, federally regulated, and ensure consumer understanding.

As for the procurement provisions in HB 10: cultivated meat products are not currently found in schools or public institutions. This section of the bill is a solution in search of a problem. It could limit local choice while sending an unwelcoming signal to innovative businesses. I believe that empowering schools to make informed decisions based on the district's needs is a stronger approach than an umbrella restriction on safe, federally regulated foods.

Ohio has long been at the center of agricultural and manufacturing innovation. By ensuring our policies welcome new technologies while maintaining rigorous safety standards, we can keep that legacy strong. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to serve as a resource to this committee and answer any questions you may have.

Dr. Heidi Coia, PhD  
Director of Tissue Engineering & Product Development  
Nexture Bio | Xenia, Ohio  
heidi@nexturebio.com  
nexturebio.com