

Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee – Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 96.

My name is Kay Rothman. I'm a nonfiction producer, sharing stories about everyday courageous people for over 30 years for National Geographic, History Channel, Discovery and many more.

My family arrived in Columbus about 150 years ago, when the train tracks going west ended here. They brought their dreams, their grit, and their belief that this was a place to build a decent, prosperous home for themselves and the generations to come. They were right. I am deeply grateful to them for their good judgment.

I'd visited family in Columbus growing up, but I'd never actually lived in Ohio because my work necessitated I live elsewhere. My industry, like many others, shifted recently. New possibilities opened up, and I moved to Columbus a few months ago. I've been welcomed by a vibrant, creative community — and cousins all over the place.

Since arriving, I've successfully founded an online channel in collaboration with a local production company. We shot our first series about the remarkable history here just a few blocks away from this room, with completely local crews. In less than a month after releasing our first three episodes, we attracted over 70 thousand views, and we're already planning our next 9 episodes to take place across the State.

When I tell my colleagues on the Coasts about the depth and breadth of talent and locations and stories in Ohio, they always say “Talk to me about the tax incentives. What’s the cap and is it rolling?” This Bill will allow me to give them the answers they need to bring their projects here – and some to even put down lasting roots and stay.

Job creation. Workforce development. Support for ancillary industries that resonate strongly with voters. Others testifying will discuss in detail how production is simply good business for this State. I am here to share, as a new Ohioan whose family’s five generations paved the way for me to finally make my own home here, that I will be able to personally advocate for my colleagues to bring their production dollars, their inspiring stories, and their support of the local economy to Ohio with the help of this Bill. Thank you for giving me the tool I need to do just that.

I am happy to answer any questions you may wish to ask me.