



April 29, 2025

The Honorable Kristina Roegner  
Chair, Ohio Senate General Government Committee  
State Capitol Building  
77 South High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: GBA Requests Amendments to SB 88 (Johnson) – Enact Ohio Property Protection Act

Dear Chair Abrams,

On behalf of the Global Business Alliance (GBA), I am writing to request that you amend SB 88 (Johnson), which would ban “foreign adversaries” from owning real property in the state. While we respect the Ohio Legislature’s commitment to safeguarding local interests, we are concerned about the message that SB 88 (Johnson) will send to current and future employers in the state. This bill, as written, risks undermining the ability of foreign companies to grow in Ohio and jeopardizes the economic benefits their investment brings to the state.

GBA represents nearly 200 leading international companies, all of whom are major U.S. employers. On average, GBA members each employ 12,000 U.S. workers, and these companies are all globally headquartered in countries that are long-time friends and allies of the United States. In Ohio specifically, over 1,321 international companies employ nearly 322,900 Ohioans.<sup>1</sup>

Over the past five years, employment at global companies in Ohio has increased by thirteen percent, while Ohio’s overall private sector only increased by an eighth of a percent. Nationally, on average, these firms pay American workers \$89,000 annually in wages and benefits. See more [information](#) on the ways international companies support Ohio’s economy.

Global companies in Ohio include; food companies, equipment manufacturers, banks, data centers, energy technology companies, bio and life science companies, advanced and traditional manufacturing.

The legislation would prohibit “foreign adversaries” from owning property. Similar legislation has passed in other states and GBA has worked with governments across the country to recommend that such legislation

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Survey of Current Business, Activities of U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Multinational Enterprises in 2020, released August 2023.

As the premier advocacy resource for international companies in the United States, the Global Business Alliance (GBA), actively promotes and defends an open economy that welcomes international companies to invest in America. Our members are American companies with global heritage and an indispensable part of our nation’s economic success. When America is open for business, we all benefit.

closely mirror federal law to achieve the drafter's objectives while continuing to support economic growth, investment, and job creation. For instance, Kentucky recently adopted [HB315](#), which closely mirrors federal law and protects many global companies' investment in Kentucky.

Specifically, GBA recommends that HB 1, be amended to follow U.S. law to ensure compliance and prevent misalignment. GBA recommends the following changes;

- Define "U.S. person" as 22 U.S.C. § 6010
- Define "foreign adversary" as 15 CFR § 7.4

The proposed changes will conform the legislation to current federal law and ensure that Ohio manufacturers can continue providing good quality jobs, and welcome new and future investment into Ohio.

Please see additional information enclosed. For the reasons summarized above, I urge you to amend this legislation to mirror current federal law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Johnson', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Kelsey Johnson  
Vice President, State Affairs  
Global Business Alliance

Enclosure

cc: Members of the Ohio Senate General Government Committee



GLOBAL  
BUSINESS  
ALLIANCE

Investing in America

# Foreign Direct Investment Strengthens OHIO'S ECONOMY

## HIGH-QUALITY JOBS

**322,900** workers in Ohio are employed as a result of international investment.

## MANUFACTURING

**175,400** workers in Ohio - **54 percent** of all FDI jobs in the state - are in the manufacturing sector.

## GLOBALLY CONNECTED

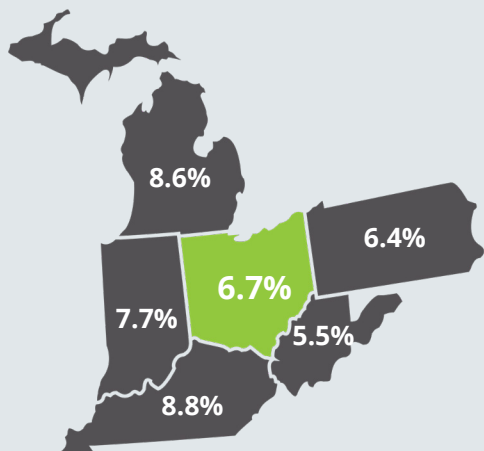
Among all international employers, those from **Japan**, **Germany** and the **United Kingdom** support the largest number of jobs in Ohio.

## MANY EMPLOYERS

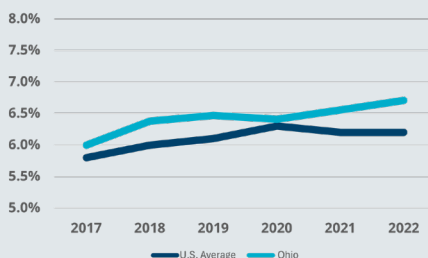
**1,321** international employers have operations in Ohio.

## INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONTRIBUTES TO OHIO'S ECONOMY

**Ohio vs. Its Neighbors**  
FDI Jobs as a % of Total Employment

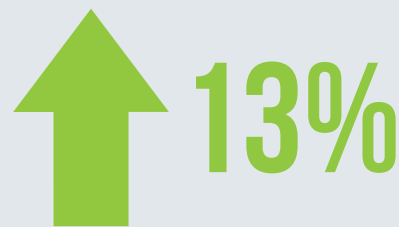


**Ohio vs. USA**  
FDI Jobs as a % of Total Employment



Ohio beats the national average in its portion of jobs supported by international investment.

**From 2017 to 2022, Ohio's FDI employment...**



while the state's overall private-sector employment



## DISCOVER THE FULL LIST OF GBA MEMBERS

Nearly 200 international companies comprise GBA's membership, representing a slice of the U.S. economy that provides 8.4 million high-quality jobs that pay an average of seven percent higher compensation than the economy-wide average. Our members are some of the largest international employers in the country. Browse through our membership list using the QR code.

