

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Guo Chen

Testifying as Opponent

May 23, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to Senate Bill 88.

My name is Guo Chen, and I live in Dayton, Ohio. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in engineering at the University of Dayton. I have lived in Ohio for several years and have grown to love this state—not only because of the education and opportunities it offers but because of the warm and welcoming community my family and I have become a part of.

My father works long, difficult hours at Fuyao Glass America, one of the many manufacturing companies that rely on skilled and dedicated labor. Like him, many members of the Chinese community in Ohio take on jobs that are physically demanding and essential to our economy—roles that others often overlook. All of my family members are here legally, either working or studying, and we all strive to contribute to this state in every way we can.

We purchased a home in Dayton, where we've planted a garden we share with our neighbors. We rescue stray kittens, help maintain our community, and give back whenever possible—through taxes, donations, and our daily efforts. Our neighbors know us as kind, generous, and respectful people. We have not broken any laws—we don't even smoke. We came to Ohio with the dream of building a better life, and we've poured our savings into a home where we hope to live for decades.

Senate Bill 88 threatens to take all of that away. While I understand and respect the concern for national security, this bill casts an overly broad and vague net. A 25-mile radius from undefined "critical infrastructure" could effectively cover nearly all of Ohio, making almost no place safe for families like mine to own a home. We are being punished not because of anything we've done, but because of where we were born. That is not only unjust—it's deeply un-American.

The bill sends a message that despite our legal status, our hard work, and our contributions, we will never truly belong here. It creates fear and uncertainty among law-abiding residents who are doing everything right. I worry every day that we may be forced to leave the home we've worked so hard for—our only sanctuary.

I respectfully urge the Senate General Government Committee to consider the real, human impact of this bill and to vote NO on S.B. 88. We want to keep contributing to Ohio's growth, not be driven away from the communities we've helped build.

Thank you again for your time and for hearing my story.

Sincerely,
Guo Chen
Dayton, Ohio