
Ping Bai

Dublin, OH 43017

May 25, 2025

To:

Senator Shane Wilkin, Chair

Senate General Government Committee

Subject: Opposition to SB88 – The Ohio Property Protection Act

Dear Senator Wilkin and Members of the General Government Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 88 (SB88), the “Ohio Property Protection Act.” As a legal immigrant who has made Ohio my home, I am deeply concerned about the potential economic and constitutional implications of this legislation.

Many of the people who could be harmed by SB88 are legal immigrants — like myself and many others — who came to Ohio for the same reasons earlier generations did: to build a better life, work hard, raise families, and escape oppressive governments. Just like the Irish who fled famine in the 1800s, the Vietnamese refugees after the war, or Jewish families escaping persecution, we came here for freedom and opportunity.

There must be a clear distinction between Chinese immigrants and the Chinese government. Treating private individuals — homeowners, business owners, taxpayers — as threats simply because of their national origin is not only wrong but deeply un-American. These are people who contribute to Ohio’s economy, schools, and communities every day. Painting them with the same brush as a foreign government is unfair and unconstitutional.

Foreign Investment: A Vital Pillar of Ohio's Economy

Foreign-owned businesses and real estate are integral to Ohio's economic prosperity. Consider the following:

- **Job Creation:** As of 2024, international companies employ 322,900 Ohio workers. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ohio has grown by 13% over the last five years.
- **High-Quality Employment:** Jobs created by these companies offer wages 29% higher than the state average.
- **Exports & Education:** In 2023, Ohio exported \$2.8 billion worth of goods and services to China. During the 2022–2023 academic year, international students contributed \$1.2 billion to Ohio's economy and supported nearly 13,000 jobs.
- **Manufacturing Strength:** 122,300 Ohioans work in manufacturing jobs supported by international companies.

The Damaging Economic Fallout of SB88

These bills risk undoing all this progress:

- **Reduced Real Estate Activity:** A professor from The Ohio State University testified that similar legislation could cause \$200–\$250 million in lost real estate sales annually, leading to falling property values across the state.
- **Loss of Tax Revenue:** The same expert projected a loss of \$3–\$4 million annually in local property tax revenues — directly harming public schools and essential services.
- **Brain Drain:** Discriminatory restrictions will drive away talented international STEM graduates who could otherwise contribute to Ohio's economy.
- **Chilling Effect on Investment:** Even Governor DeWine, in vetoing similar legislation in 2023, warned that these laws could have “unintended, negative consequences on business and economic development” in Ohio. The Global Business Alliance has echoed similar concerns.

Ohio should be focused on fostering a welcoming environment for all residents and investors who contribute lawfully to our communities and economy. SB88 and HB1 achieve the opposite; they will damage our economic standing, invite costly legal battles, and stain our state's reputation with the brush of xenophobia and discrimination.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB88. Let's protect Ohio's economy, uphold constitutional values, and continue building a state that welcomes all who wish to contribute.

Sincerely,

Ping Bai