

Subject: Opposition to HB1 – Concerns About Discrimination and Impact on Immigrant Communities

Dear Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing as a concerned Ohio resident regarding House Bill 1 (HB1), which seeks to restrict foreign ownership of certain real property in our state. While I understand the importance of protecting our critical infrastructure and agricultural resources, I urge you to reconsider the broad language and implications of this bill.

I live in a diverse and welcoming community that includes friends and neighbors from China and other countries. They are law-abiding residents who contribute meaningfully to Ohio's economy and cultural fabric. HB1, as currently written, risks unfairly targeting people based solely on their national origin — a step that could promote fear, suspicion, and discrimination.

I respectfully ask the committee to either reject HB1 or significantly amend it to ensure that it does not unfairly penalize individuals or families who are already contributing positively to our communities. Property ownership is a foundational part of the American Dream, and we should be cautious about enacting laws that could unintentionally infringe on that dream for so many.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service.

Sincerely,

Garry Fourman