

Testimony Opposing SB88
Ohio Senate General Government Committee

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Solon, Ohio
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Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and esteemed members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am here today as a concerned Ohio resident to respectfully oppose Senate Bill 88. While I understand the importance of safeguarding national security and critical infrastructure, I believe this bill, as written, casts an unjustifiably wide net and risks harming individuals and families across our state.

SB88 would prohibit certain noncitizens from owning property within a 25-mile radius of military installations and broadly defined critical infrastructure—including power plants, water treatment facilities, pipelines, telecommunications sites, and rail lines. The 25-mile radius is not a small zone—it covers much of the state's habitable land, especially when multiple sites are considered together.

What makes this bill especially troubling is that it doesn't just restrict future property purchases. It would force people like me—who already own a home in one of these zones—to sell that home within two years. Let me tell you what that looks like in real life.

When I learned what this bill could mean for my family, I had to tell my son—who is a U.S. citizen—that we might have to sell our house and move. He was very much concerned. He asked me why, and I couldn't explain it in a way that made sense to either of us. We've worked hard to build a life here. We contribute to our community. Our neighbors know us. And yet, because of the country I was born in, this bill would tell us we're not allowed to stay in our own home.

That conversation broke my heart. I came to this country seeking opportunity and stability. I have always respected the laws of this state and this nation. And now, my family's future in Ohio is being called into question—not because of anything we've done, but because of where I was born.

One day, my son may have to explain to his own children why this country forced their family out of their home. What will he tell them? That their family's original sin was simply the country their grandparents were born in?

I understand and support the goal of protecting critical infrastructure, but this legislation punishes individuals based on nationality, not behavior or threat. It risks displacing families, damaging local economies, and sending a message that some people—no matter how deeply rooted in the community—will never truly belong.

SB88 also raises constitutional concerns, including property rights and equal protection under the law. I respectfully ask this committee to consider these legal and moral implications.

Please do not pass a law that tells children born here—like my son—that their family doesn't deserve a home because of where their parent came from. Ohio can do better. We must do better.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Please oppose Senate Bill 88.

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