

Testimony in Opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 88

May 27th 2025

To: The Ohio Senate General Government Committee

Dear Chairwomen Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and Members of the Committee.

I am writing as a concerned United State citizen and an Ohio resident regarding Senate Bill 88, which seeks to restrict foreigner ownership of real property in our state.

I do understand the importance of protecting our critical infrastructure, but I think there will be some negative impacts to our communities and research at the state of Ohio.

The state of Ohio proudly has the largest number of colleges in the United States and many of the colleges are major employees locally. Many universities also own big research communities that have significant number of researchers come from foreign countries. I have been working as a researcher at the Ohio State University for more than 20 years and have been surrounded by many other international researchers, many of whom eventually settle down at OSU and become critical part of the OSU research community and contributed significantly to the research at OSU. For many of them, purchasing a house give them a sense of settlement so they can call Ohio their homeland. If the bill passes, these researchers might be forced to choose other state to continue their valuable research, which will be a big loss for the Ohio State University, the university we all love and be proud of. Similarly, the same impact can be applied to other universities in Ohio.

I urge you to kindly consider the potential of the negative impact of SB88 for OSU research.

Sincerely

Liwen Zhang