

## **Opponent Testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 88 – The Ohio Property Protection Act**

*Presented to the Senate General Government Committee*

*Date: 05/26/2025*

### **Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony opposing Senate Bill 88, known as the Ohio Property Protection Act. I am Yidi Yang, and I am here to express concerns regarding the implications of this legislation.

The bill's restrictions on property ownership based on national origin or association with certain foreign entities raise concerns about potential violations of federal laws, including the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Similar legislation in other states has faced legal challenges on these grounds, suggesting that SB 88 could subject Ohio to costly and protracted litigation.

Ohio has a rich history of welcoming diverse populations and fostering international partnerships. By imposing stringent restrictions on property ownership, SB 88 could deter foreign investment, hinder economic development, and send an unwelcoming message to international communities. This could particularly affect sectors reliant on global talent and investment, such as higher education, technology, and manufacturing.

The bill mandates the Secretary of State to compile a registry of restricted entities but does not provide clear guidance on how this registry will be maintained, updated, or accessed. Additionally, there is no provision for a publicly accessible database to help individuals and businesses determine whether a property falls within a restricted zone. This lack of transparency and clarity could lead to confusion, inadvertent violations, and administrative burdens.

While safeguarding national security is paramount, it is essential to balance these concerns with the rights of lawful immigrants and the economic interests of the state. I urge the committee to oppose SB 88 and to seek solutions that protect our security in a not discriminated way.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please oppose Senate Bill 88.

Respectfully submitted,

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