

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 262

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee.

My name is Tim Linville, CEO of the Construction Employers Association (CEA), representing over 180 construction firms in Northeast Ohio and approximately 8,000 skilled trades and construction management professionals. Our members range from large corporations to family-owned businesses, all united by a commitment to building safely, efficiently, and transparently.

CEA strongly supports Senate Bill 262 because it addresses a critical gap in public contracting: the lack of visibility into contract modifications. By requiring changes to industry-standard contracts to be clearly marked—through underlining or strikethroughs—SB 262 brings clarity to a process that is often rushed and opaque. This simple, commonsense reform mirrors legislative drafting practices and empowers contractors to quickly identify and assess changes.

Contractors typically have just three to six weeks to review complex contracts before bidding. Legal review during this window can cost thousands of dollars—often more than \$5,000—making it inaccessible for many firms. SB 262 doesn't restrict modifications; it simply ensures they're disclosed. That transparency allows contractors to focus their limited time and resources on meaningful changes, not combing through dense legal language.

This bill protects both public entities and contractors. It encourages legal review, reduces risk, and fosters trust—ultimately leading to more competitive bids and better outcomes for taxpayers. Transparency isn't just good policy; it's good business.

We urge your support for SB 262 to strengthen fairness, improve efficiency, and enhance the integrity of Ohio's public contracting process. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tim Linville