



# Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

## Proponent Testimony on SB 125

April 1, 2025

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 125 (Patton) Commercial Roofing Contractors. My name is Sam Gmetro and I am the President of The Northern Ohio Fire Fighters (NOFF.) NOFF is currently made up of 20 local fire departments representing active and retired firefighters in six different counties including (Cuyahoga, Lake, Summit, Wayne, Geauga and Medina Counties.)

Our organization has a history of service and knows the importance of working to move this State forward as members have served on the State Fire Commission, statewide task forces, and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Board. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs with fire dampers, and pension reform. Giving and being active in the community is also very important to NOFF, the organization and its members have raised considerable funding for various charities over the years.

**Our job is about safety and therefore, NOFF supports adding a commercial roofing license section to the existing Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) located within the Ohio Department of Commerce in the Division of Industrial Compliance and Labor.**

Commercial contractors being able to show proof of insurance, have work experience of three years to be grandfathered in, or to gain a new licensee- sit for an industry specific test would help provide a level of expertise to commercial roofing. The legislation can enhance safety and strengthen protections for fire fighters that have to enter compromised buildings.

The ability to have an efficient, time tested, check on commercial building structures makes sense and can protect lives. It can protect those inside the buildings and help our fire fighters also return to their families safely after their shift.

Thank you for your time. NOFF appreciates your consideration of SB 125 and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.