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Senate Bill 125 Testimony

Bill Kilcoyne, Koynes Construction Service

8356 National Road, Pataskala, Ohio 43062

bill.kilcoyne0485@gmail.com

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

My name is Bill Kilcoyne and I am the President of Koynes Construction Service in Pataskala, Ohio. I am a roofing consultant. A roofing consultant is a specialized contractor who provides advice and services related to roofing systems. We work with public and private owners, or other clients such as design professionals, to help them choose the right type of roofing material for their needs and see to its proper installation and maintenance. When there is a failure or a dispute, we are often called in to offer our industry expertise. We educate and guide property owners and managers about the condition of their property's roof and recommend correct solutions for any roofing issues. We do not provide products or services, but rather just insight into what we see and what we recommend should be done.

I was also a roofing contractor for many years and a roofer in the field many years before that. I have experienced the roofing industry from many different perspectives and I am here today to offer my recommendation to you on commercial roofing licensure.

As a Certified Roofing Consultant, I act as an agent on behalf of the building owner. My focus is to see that the roof of my client, whether new construction or re-roofing, is properly installed. Which includes verifying the proper materials are used; and that these materials are properly applied as specified by the roof system manufacturer. So, a license requirement is a great first step to help me find a qualified contractor to install my client's roof.

A license for a commercial roofing contractors has been long overdue in Ohio. Senate Bill 125 strikes just the right balance to provide a practical and efficient professional license. For many years other disciplines such as plumbing, electrical and refrigeration have benefited from the structure that the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board provides for those industries. They have been effective at addressing employee misclassification, kept bad players from remaining in the market and raised the level of professionalism through reasonable and affordable (and often free) continuing education in the areas of business, technology, safety and code.

Roofing is no less technical, no less dangerous, and certainly no less critical to the long-term safety of the building envelope and every system contained within it. We need to recognize this now more than ever to keep Ohio's public spaces safe and dry.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 125 and to encourage your colleagues to speed this measure through the General Assembly. The people of Ohio have waited too long for this basic safety measure for public spaces. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.