



**Representative Bob Cupp**  
**4<sup>th</sup> House District**

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY – HB 31**

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Good morning Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff, and members of the committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony today in support of HB 31.

HB 31 will, if enacted, abolish the Government Contracting Advisory Council. Whatever its original purpose, this council is now—and has been for several years—an exercise in useless bureaucracy serving no real purpose.

The Government Contracting Advisory Council was created in 2005 as part of that year's budget bill. A portion of that bill addressed financial accountability for those who contract to provide goods, services, or construction with a state agency or political subdivision of a state. The law vested the Attorney General and Auditor of State with rule-making authority related to these new requirements, and the Government Contracting Advisory Council was intended to review these rules and regulations.

The Council includes 21 representatives from the government and private sectors to provide input and perspective on the rules for government contracting. The Attorney General, Auditor of State, the directors of agencies such as the Department of Medicaid, Administrative Services, and Budget and Management or their designees are members. So too are the executive directors of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, the Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Ohio United Way.

The Council is required to meet at least once every two years in order to review the rules adopted under the act. However, no rules have ever been adopted, and yet the biennial Council meeting every two years involves the time of the individuals on the council to do . . . nothing.

In theory, the council would provide useful guidance, but what may seem good in theory sometimes does not exist in reality. That's the situation here. Since its inception, the Council has never had any business to conduct when it meets.

Because it takes considerable effort to coordinate a meeting of such busy agency heads, this pointless exercise has become frustrating. Time is scarce, as I'm sure you can appreciate during this busy budget season.

At each biennial meeting, the *members* have questioned the need for the body, and they have encouraged the General Assembly to abolish the Council. This bill will do so.

The Auditor of State is in support of this bill, and other organizations with membership on the council will be offering their support of the Council's termination, too.

I encourage your support of this bill. I welcome any questions the committee might have.