



**BEFORE THE TRANSPORTATION, COMMERCE, AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE
OF THE OHIO SENATE
SENATOR ROB MCCOLLEY, CHAIRMAN**

**TESTIMONY
OF
RYAN AUGSBURGER
VICE PRESIDENT
THE OHIO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION**

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, my name is Ryan Augsburger and I am Vice President at the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Resolution 376 (SR376).

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,400 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

Manufacturing is the largest of the state's 20 primary industry sectors. Manufacturing contributed more than \$112.2 billion in GDP according to the most recent data. This amounts to nearly 17% of the state's economy. According to the most recent federal data, more than 705,000 Ohioans work in manufacturing.

The OMA urges your support and fast consideration of SR376. The resolution urges Congress to ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This agreement was signed by the chief executives of the United States, Mexico and Canada last year and has already been ratified by Mexico's Senate over the past summer.

The OMA believes passage of the USMCA is critical to the continued success of manufacturing in our state. In 2017, Ohio manufacturers sold \$27 billion of manufactured goods to Canada and Mexico, and more than 3,800 Ohio manufacturers export to Canada and Mexico.

Passing the agreement will:

- Strengthen and modernize America's innovation engine by including best-in-class intellectual property rules while setting new standards for today's economy.
- Expand U.S. manufacturing access to Canada and Mexico by ensuring that manufacturers can sell their products duty-free into those countries, while eliminating red tape at the border.
- Level the playing field between the United States, Mexico and Canada by raising standards, improving transparency, and prohibiting anti-U.S. discrimination and anti-competitive activity, while providing binding enforcement for all obligations under the agreement.

The jobs of nearly 103,000 Ohio manufacturing workers depend on exports to Canada and Mexico. American manufacturers cannot afford to lose access to important markets in Canada and Mexico, which together purchase more U.S.-made goods than our next 10 trading partners combined. Without the USMCA, Ohio's manufactured goods exports to Canada and Mexico could face as much as \$3.1 billion in extra taxes (compared to zero tariffs today).

The OMA and manufacturers across Ohio stand ready to discuss why passing the USMCA is so important to our state and the well-paying jobs that the industry provides.

We would like to thank President Obhof for his leadership on this resolution so important to Ohio's economy and its many families dependent on manufacturing. We urge this committee to quickly approve SR376.

Thank you. I will be more than happy to try and answer any questions from committee members.