

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

SB 105 Proponent Testimony

Chairman Edwards, Vice-Chair Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this correspondence as proponent testimony for Senate Bill 105. I apologize that I could not testify in person.

Ohio Senate Bill 105 is a true enhancement to creating efficiencies in government and will allow veteran, minority and women owned businesses to save time, money, and the frustration that goes along with obtaining government certifications and contracts in differing jurisdictions.

My name is Tom Pannett, recently retired from the Ohio Department of Transportation, and now working for a large law firm in Columbus. I have worked within state and local government for some time and in many capacities, and spend many years in procurement. Part of my duties and pleasure while in government was helping small, women, veteran and minority owned businesses succeed. I have engaged persons in the industry regarding this legislation such as my friends Joyce Johnson, Owner of CCI Engineering Services, DBE, WBE, EDGE Certified and John Wooldridge, Owner of Excenture Business Solutions, MBE, EDGE, DBE Certified. They assisted me in drafting this testimony.

We believe that it is beyond time for a law like SB105 to be enacted. It is frustrating for an MBE, WBE, VFBE to have to be recertified in multiple jurisdictions like Cleveland or Cincinnati after already being certified by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services for just state work. The cost and effort can be exhausting and often discouraging, and this bill will rectify that vexing experience, create opportunities for these traditionally small businesses, and allow enhanced competition for companies certified and competing in a sheltered procurement.

We thank you for generating this needed piece of legislation. After this, the community of certified business will no longer have to go to jurisdiction after jurisdiction and get re-certified over and over. It is truly a win-win for all certified businesses in Ohio.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Pannett', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas P. Pannett, P.E., Esq., MBA, CPPO^{ret}