



**OHIO SOYBEAN  
ASSOCIATION**

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**Ohio House of Representatives  
Ways & Means Committee  
House Bill 165 – Written Only Testimony  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

Chair Merrin and distinguished members of the Ohio House Ways & Means Committee;

I am submitting testimony today on behalf of the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and its members in support of House Bill 165. OSA is a member-driven, grassroots organization dedicated to improving the business climate for Ohio soybean farmers by providing leadership and advocating for sound policy at the state and national levels. As the sixth-largest soybean producing state, soybeans are an important part of Ohio's economy. Soybeans are Ohio's largest crop by acreage and largest export crop. The industry employs more than 30,000 people and generates more than \$5.3 billion in economic activity annually.

We support this bill because of the positive impact it will have on Ohio's grain farmers, many of which rotate between corn and soybeans for environmental benefits and increased yield. These grain farmers will benefit from the creation of a tax incentive for high-ethanol blend because it will help increase demand for corn.

Ohio's farmers are dedicated to being environmental stewards and are committed to clean air through the use and promotion of the renewable fuels, ethanol and biodiesel. Corn is the major feedstock used in ethanol and soybean oil is the main feedstock used in biodiesel. This bill will allow more consumers to purchase cleaner burning fuel and contribute to healthier air quality because of the potential for increased access to ethanol retailers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any more information or answer any questions.

Ryan Rhoades  
President, Ohio Soybean Association  
Soybean farmer in Marion County