



May 5, 2021

The Honorable Tim Schaffer
Chairman
Senate General Government Budget Committee
1 Capitol Square
First Floor North, Rm. 128
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 110 – Written Proponent Testimony re. Industry Sector Partnership Funding

Dear Chairman Schaffer:

Industry Sector Partnerships (ISPs) are a proven workforce development strategy that put employers in the driver's seat and have demonstrated effectiveness in addressing skills gaps in Ohio and across the country. In Ohio there is a robust network of 19 manufacturing ISPs covering 65 counties with more partnerships in more counties coming online in 2021, towards a goal of covering all 88 counties. More than 1,650 companies are involved in these partnerships. Manufacturers within a regional labor market are working together to generate common solutions to workforce issues with diverse partners, including education and training, economic and workforce development, and community organizations.

It is with that background that we collectively write in support of House Bill 110, and specifically, in support of the Development Services Agency's budget for industry sector partnership funding. House Bill 110 provides funding for the agency's competitive sector partnership grant program created by the legislature in House Bill 2 of the 133rd General Assembly.

Ohio's sector partnerships work with their regional partners to create career pathways in manufacturing to ensure that students, career switchers, and other potential makers receive the exposure, education, and training to have successful manufacturing careers. As such, Ohio's manufacturers are realizing new talent pipelines to support their business growth. Manufacturing continues to be a chief driver of Ohio's GDP.

Last year, eight manufacturing partnerships were awarded ISP grants in the initial round. This money is being used to engage more manufacturing partners, promote manufacturing careers, and develop communication assets and technology tools for participants. The funding is being used to develop new programs or increase enrollment in apprenticeships, TechCred, and other training programs.

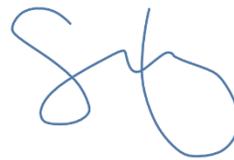
We are, however, dismayed at the inclusion of an earmark attached to the line item in the House-passed version of the bill. The House included a \$46,000 per year earmark for the Jewish Vocational Services of Cincinnati. This earmark violates the ISP grant model for two reasons. First, this entity fails the definition of an industry sector partnership and second, the ISP grant model is a competitive process ensuring that only the most effective partnerships qualify for state funding. By creating earmarks, the legislature compromises the grant purpose. Support for the Jewish Vocational Services of Cincinnati should be found from among other available and appropriate funding sources.

The community of manufacturing sector partnerships appreciates the time and effort this committee is taking in deliberating the issues in the budget. We also appreciate the work achieved by the DeWine administration, especially the Lt. Governor and the Office of Workforce Transformation for recognizing the value of industry sector partnerships and for their partnership with the General Assembly to keep innovative and successful workforce programs operating.

Sincerely,



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Public Policy Services
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association



Sara Tracey
Managing Director
Workforce Services
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association



Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership

