

Chairman of the Board
WILLIAM E. SOPKO
President, William Sopko & Sons Co., Inc.



President
ERIC L. BURKLAND

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Ron Young
Chairman
House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee
77 S. High St
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 2 – Written Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Young:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 2. As Representative Seitz noted in his sponsor testimony, Ohio is at a competitive disadvantage with employment discrimination laws that are significantly different than federal laws and the laws of many other states. These differences between the state and federal laws create an administrative burden for Ohio's manufacturers and other Ohio employers. Bringing Ohio's laws in line with their federal counterparts creates a more predictable and consistent system for employers and employees alike, and does not disrupt individuals' avenues to assert discrimination violations.

In the critical areas of statute of limitations, dual actions, individual supervisor liability, damages, affirmative defenses, and age discrimination, the bill improves Ohio's laws. We agree with other proponents that the bill encourages predictability, stability, and administrative efficiency, not only for Ohio manufacturers but also in terms of use of the state's resources. This legislation gives human resources professionals the first opportunity to resolve personnel complaints and rectify detrimental workplace behavior before it results in costly litigation.

The OMA appreciates the time and effort Representative Seitz has invested in crafting this legislation and we encourage a swift, affirmative vote of the esteemed committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Brundrett".

Robert Brundrett
Director, Public Policy Services
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association