



June 5, 2017

The Honorable Bill Seitz
Chairman, House Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Seitz:

On behalf of the nearly 25,000 members of NFIB/Ohio and the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, we would like to express our support for House Bill 133, legislation that would modernize Ohio's disaster relief laws. We believe it is important that Ohio's laws permit the swift deployment of emergency restoration equipment and personnel in the event of a disaster.

As you know, Ohio is susceptible to severe weather events such as floods, blizzards, and tornadoes. These events can happen at any time and can result in power outages, downed wires, and other hazards that impact business operations and create safety concerns for all Ohio citizens.

Companies responsible for ensuring public safety and repairing damage in the immediate aftermath of severe weather events often have to bring in additional resources and personnel from other states on a temporary basis to assist with storm restoration efforts.

However, current laws in Ohio require these businesses and their out-of-state employees to go through a process of ensuring each employee is in compliance with state and federal regulatory, tax and licensing laws. This process can be slow and burdensome, hindering the speed with which they can respond and compromising their efforts to minimize inconvenience to their customers. HB 133 removes these barriers, allowing out-of-state teams to lend a helping hand to Ohioans more quickly.

We support HB 133 because it will help ensure that our communities receive, as quickly as possible, the resources and support they need in the event of a disaster. HB 133 is also in the best interest of Ohio's businesses, and we encourage the House Public Utilities Committee to favorably report this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Ferruso
Legislative Director
NFIB/Ohio

Keith Lake
Vice President, Government Affairs
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the House Public Utilities Committee