January 30, 2018

Chairman Dave Burke

Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid

Senate Building
South Hearing Room
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SB 210

Chairman Burke:

The Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) was founded in 1920 and is the leading trade association for the food service industry in Ohio. The association works to represent, educate and promote the rapidly growing food service industry in Ohio. Over 570,000 Ohioans work in the food service industry and makes up 10 percent of the state’s workforce.

The purpose of this letter is to urge your support for SB 210. The ORA believes this legislation would give statewide uniformity to business. People are eating out more than ever, and when they do restaurants need use plastic bags and takeout containers to ensure food safely gets transport to the customer.

Currently several Ohio municipalities are attempting to tax business who used bags and containers. As you can imagine this can become extremely burdensome to restaurants. The restaurant business is a very demanding business, and the last thing our members need is a patchwork of bag and container taxes/bans spreading across Ohio.

SB 210 would give clarity to Ohio business by unsure municipalities would not be able to regulate benefits both consumers and businesses alike by eliminating confusion and maintaining the uniformity of regulation. Having to follow many different regulations could be difficult and costly to businesses, and would lead directly to the increase in prices and potentially a decrease in worker pay.

Once again I strongly encourage your support on SB 210.

Joe Rosato

Director of Government Affairs

Ohio Restaurant Association