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**Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Testimony in Support of S.B. 250**

**Bryan Bennett, OCTC Operation and External Relations Manager**

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Minority Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Bryan Bennett I am the Operations and External Relations Manager at the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 250 (SB 250).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio’s chemical technology industry, which is the second largest manufacturing industry in the State of Ohio. Ohio, in turn, is the sixth largest chemical manufacturing state in the United States. In Ohio, the chemical technology industry employs over 44,000 people, pays an average wage of over $80,000, and provides approximately $1.3 billion in federal, state and local taxes annually.

SB 250 is a bill to protect critical infrastructure from trespassers and willful damage. As you know, Ohio law already prohibits criminal trespass and willful damage to property. But this bill makes it a more serious crime, with more serious penalties, when the property at issue is critical infrastructure. OCTC strongly supports these additional deterrents to criminal mischief.

This bill is of interest to OCTC members because damage to chemical facilities can lead to grave consequences that threaten the public’s health and safety. The chemical industry recognized the seriousness of this issue in 2007 and worked with Congress to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to pass regulations known as the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS).

Under CFATS, the Department of Homeland Security works with chemical facilities to ensure that they have security measures in place to protect the facilities and the public in the event of a terrorist attack. While SB 250 does not focus on preventing terrorist attacks against chemical facilities, the underlying concern is the same. When chemical facilities are willfully damaged, there is a real risk to public health and safety. SB 250 provides a deterrent to such criminal conduct. It therefore has the strong support of OCTC and its members, and we urge this Committee to vote in favor of the bill.

In addition to CFATS, Ohio’s chemical industry is heavily regulated under both U.S. and Ohio’s Environmental Protection Agencies and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

Furthermore, across the state Ohio the industry has robust community advisory panels (CAP). These CAP’s bring together community leaders, first responders and individuals who reside around the facility. CAP’s meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of importance to the community and the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 250, I would be happy to answer any questions. I have here with me Caroline Gentry with our legal counsel Porter Wright to answer any technical legal questions.