

Senator John Eklund, Senate Ways and Means Chair
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

April 11, 2018

Dear Chairman Eklund,

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber represents nearly 4,000 members from the Southwest Ohio region with a bold voice for business. We support House Bill 133, legislation to exempt out-of-state employees from taxes and licensing requirements for work on critical infrastructure projects during a declared state of emergency.

Utilities, communications companies and other infrastructure-related businesses often bring in employees from other states after storms, floods and other dramatic events to assist in recovery efforts. This includes restoring the power supply, water service or even telecommunications services after a disaster interrupts those services.

By providing exceptions to employees who come in from out of state, this legislation would remove barriers that prevent recovery from taking place in an efficient, timely manner, allowing our communities and businesses to return to life and work as soon as possible. This bill is also limited in scope, as it only applies during official declarations of emergency. At least 26 other states have already enacted similar exemptions proposed by House Bill 133, and we would encourage Ohio to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on House Bill 133. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jason Kershner
Vice President, Government Affairs

CC: Senate Ways and Means Committee Members
State Representative Scott Ryan

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