



House Economic Development & Workforce Committee  
Chairman Paul Zeltwanger

**Re: Opposition to HB 258**

Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice-Chair Powell & Ranking Member Sobecki:

Please be advised the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation (“ACT Ohio”) is a 501 (c)(5) organization established by the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council (“OSBCTC”) to promote industry best practices for Ohio’s public and private construction. ACT Ohio works on behalf of over 94,000 of the state’s most highly trained construction workers.

In its current form, ACT Ohio stands opposed to HB 258.

Affiliates of the OSBCTC invest nearly \$50 million dollars per year in apprenticeship and safety training through over 70 apprenticeship training centers in Ohio. Many of these training programs have agreements in place with local community colleges to ensure that apprentices earn credits towards an associate’s degree as they complete their training in our programs. Most of these programs are 4 or 5 year commitments, with apprentices working forty (40) hours or more per week, and attending classes at the training center once or twice per week in the evenings. Our classes are instructed by tradesmen and women that have vast field experience in their crafts.

The primary licensing authority in the construction arena in Ohio is the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (“OCILB”). It is comprised of industry professionals as well as union and non-union representatives. They are experts in this arena, and have done an outstanding job over the past several decades with regard to licensing skilled crafts in the construction industry including: electrical, mechanical/steamfitting, HVAC, refrigeration and hydronics. These are highly specialized areas, with mechanics that do very dangerous work. As OSBCTC Secretary Treasurer Mike Knisley explained in an interested party meeting for example, work conducted on high-pressure boilers can have significant impacts on the health and safety of every person in that building.

Any bill, including HB 258, that effectively reduces the authority of Ohio’s licensing agencies for these areas of work increases the likelihood of sub-par work being conducted. As a result, the overall safety and well-being of workers and others could be compromised.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and thank you for your consideration of our position.

Matthew Szollosi  
Executive Director, ACT Ohio