

Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation

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Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee
Chairman Rob McColley
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Opposition to Proposed Amendment 133-0983 to HB 442

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Johnson & Ranking Member Antonio:

Thank you for accepting this written testimony on behalf of the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation (ACT Ohio) and the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC). In tandem, our respective organizations represent more than 94,000 Building Trades men and women in all 88 counties of Ohio.

For the reasons stated below, we are opposed to the proposed changes to the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board & Historical Boilers Board and urge (1) their removal from the amendment, or (2) rejection of the amendment in its entirety.

As I have previously stated in testimony before the Senate, we support the Senate's comprehensive review of Ohio's agencies, boards and commissions for purposes of increasing efficiency and reducing the size of government. However, we firmly believe it is incumbent upon the Legislature to recognize agencies that are "doing it right," particularly when it comes to delivery of key services in a cost-effective and value-centric manner.

The OCILB is well-run and plays an integral role in Ohio's construction industry. The Board is made up of industry professionals, union and non-union, who work diligently and fairly with stakeholders to ensure Ohio's construction industry remains safe and efficient. The fees are fair and are essential to continuing the Board's smooth operations. The licensing requirements are reasonable, and the continuing education requirements help ensure contractors are remaining up to date with safety standards that are so important to the industry.

Given the ultra-hazardous nature of construction, taking steps that would conflict with the work being done by the OCILB, potentially compromising safety standards on Ohio's construction industry jobsites, is not the direction the Ohio Legislature should be taking.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Szollosi".

Matthew A. Szollosi
Executive Director, ACT Ohio

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Knisley".

Mike Knisley
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, OSBCTC