



March 8, 2022

Chair Stein
House Commerce and Labor Committee

Chairman Stein, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and Members of the Commerce and Labor Committee,

Good morning. I am Beth Lear, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio.

ABC member contractors, our three Ohio chapters have nearly 1,000 commercial general contractors, subcontractors and affiliated businesses, are completely dedicated to providing the highest quality construction product for the most competitive price while maintaining the highest level of workplace safety. Additionally, we work every day to recruit, train and employ the construction workforce of tomorrow.

Our members support HB 372.

Current law requires inspections on all commercial construction projects during construction. This is necessary to make certain the work is being performed according to the building code and the approved plans.

Also in current law is the opportunity to appeal a decision of the inspector. The cost of the inspection is provided in the original permitting process.

In the relatively rare circumstances that an inspection is appealed, the appeal process can take over 30 days to complete. Typically speaking, it is impossible for a contractor to exercise their appeal rights when the process would shut the project down by thirty days or more.

HB 372 offers a reasonable improvement to the existing appeal process that is funded by the contractor – not the government.

How it works: If passed, the bill would allow a contractor to request an expedited appeal. Once requested, the appropriate board must begin the appeal within 24 hours and hold a hearing within 72 hours.

Lastly, the burden of the expedited appeals cost is on the contractor. The current fee for appeals is not to exceed \$200 for the Board of Building Appeals and \$100 for local boards. The



bill allows the state and county/municipal boards to charge a fee for an expedited appeal of \$500.

ABC of Ohio believes there are already enough impediments in Ohio to getting construction projects completed on time and on budget. With the additional burdens of workforce shortages and material delays, we encourage this committee to favorably consider the permissive HB 372 and vote the bill out of committee to keep Ohio's tradesmen and women working.



Beth Lear

VP of Government Affairs

(614) 725-6018

blear@abcofohio.org

www.ABCofOhio.com  