

Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation

Matthew Szollosi, Executive Director
mszollosi@actohio.org | (614) 795-3164



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Honorable Dick Stein
Ohio House Commerce & Labor Committee
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan & Members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee:

Please be advised that the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation (“ACT Ohio”) is a 501(c)(5) organization created to facilitate economic and industrial development opportunities, and to promote industry-best practices for Ohio’s public and private construction.

ACT Ohio currently has 137 local affiliates across the state, who in the aggregate represent more than 95,000 building trades members. ACT Ohio has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to promote careers in construction to Ohioans of all ethnic and socio-economic circumstances. We are aggressively recruiting the best and the brightest to seek an apprenticeship and develop skills that can sustain a family. We strongly support the concept of getting young people, minorities, females and veterans involved and interested in Ohio’s construction industry.

Please be advised that ACT Ohio supports many of the concepts set forth in HB 372. I have had numerous productive conversations with the bill sponsors Rep. Roemer and Rep. Ray regarding the intent of the legislation.

Building standards and adherence to building codes are an essential part of our every-day business. Inevitably, conflicts in interpretation arise and the majority of these conflicts are worked out short of the formal appeal process set out in law. However, there are occasions in the construction industry whereby these issues cannot be privately resolved. These matters are addressed through appeals to entities known as Boards of Building Appeals. These BBAs exist at the municipal, county and state levels.

Specifically, I am trying to assess from our industry partners the impact of the 24 hour commencement and 72 hour hearing timelines. I believe in my most recent discussion with Rep. Roemer that these issues may already be addressed by the continuation language in the bill.

Additionally, we discussed the bill’s potential impact on enforcement procedures regarding illegal or un-approved work.

Finally, we are better trying to understand the anticipated volume increase of appeals at each of these levels if the expedited processes set forth in the bill are put in place.

While we are still reviewing some of these matters, I concur with Rep. Roemer and Ray's testimony last week that building officials in certain areas fully understand the leverage they have, particularly under current high-demand market conditions. Clearly, the expedited appeal process set forth in HB 372 could have the desired effect of helping both sides to potential disputes find common ground and troubleshoot these differences quickly.

Thank you for your time and consideration – we will gladly continue to work with the bill sponsors to alleviate any questions that we may have.