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**Manufacturing Policy Alliance (MPA)
Opponent Testimony on H.B. 235
House Commerce & Labor Committee
May 31, 2022**

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and fellow distinguished members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee, thank you for receiving MPA's testimony in opposition to H.B. 235.

MPA was formed to provide an effective voice on critical policy matters that affect the competitiveness of Ohio and its large manufacturing companies. We strive to work with the General Assembly and the Governor to help sustain a healthy and vibrant economy. MPA members are concerned with the direction of H.B. 235 and believe that the bill would be detrimental to the competitiveness of manufacturing in Ohio.

Unfortunately, it has been argued that H.B. 235 is necessary to improve safety at our state's refineries. But the facts do not support this statement.

For large manufacturers, safety rises in importance above all else. We routinely start our day and our meetings with a safety reminder to our workers and teammates. We regularly report our safety statistics to our shareholders and set real and meaningful goals to improve safety year-over-year. The ultimate goal is that every worker leaves the workplace at the end of their day and returns to their family safe and sound.

H.B. 235 purports to improve safety even further by mandating that refineries hire a specific class of workers, despite that fact that there is no guarantee that these workers will have an equal or better safety record than the current contractors and subcontractors. In principle, forcing private employers to use unionized labor is objectionable. In practice, it may make our workplaces less safe. For example, consider the previously submitted testimony of Marathon Petroleum, which clearly demonstrates the superior safety record of non-union contractors versus union contractors at the Canton Refinery.¹

MPA members include several that have union workforces, but those should not be imposed by the legislature. We believe H.B. 235 is bad policy and could set a dangerous precedent for the state's large manufacturers. Which industry will be next?

Manufacturers should reserve the right to hire the best person for the job and the one that makes the most sense given their specific company's needs. We urge the Committee to oppose H.B. 235.

¹ Testimony of David Blatnik and Darin Barber before the Ohio House Commerce & Labor Committee, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, January 26, 2022.