



**Senate Bill 338  
Proponent Testimony  
Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
November 15, 2022**

Chair Schaffer, Vice-Chair Huffman, and members of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 338.

By way of background, the Ohio Grocers Association proudly represents over 500 food retail, wholesale, and supply companies across the Buckeye state. Our members range from the largest chain stores to the smallest “mom and pop” independent grocers as well as some convenience stores and of course the food wholesalers who supply these stores.

Food safety is one of the most critical components of our retail food operations. Ohio’s grocery and retail food businesses work diligently with all the local health departments across the state to maintain this level of consumer confidence and integrity. Our members build relationships with our local health inspectors in order to ensure our operations meet the compliance necessary in Ohio’s food code.

It is with our operations in mind that we offer our support for this legislation. SB 338 would establish a process in which the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture would maintain critical oversight and also incorporate a much-needed objective method in which health inspectors are appropriately evaluated and assessed. This in turn would allow a more efficient and time-effective process so that our operations can continue to provide a safe and quality product to consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 338 and to Senator Lang, for his sponsorship.

