



# Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

P.O. Box 222, Mount Eaton, Ohio 44659

[www.NOFF.org](http://www.NOFF.org)

April 25, 2023

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, and Ranking Member McNally and Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 129 (Patton) Commercial Roofing Contractors. The Northern Ohio Fire Fighters (NOFF) is made up of 20 local fire departments representing active and retired firefighters in six different counties including (Cuyahoga, Lake, Summit, Wayne, Geauga and Medina Counties.)

Our organization has a history of service and knows the importance of working to move this State forward as members have served on the State Fire Commission, statewide task forces, and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Board. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs with fire dampers, and pension reform. Giving and being active in the community is also very important to NOFF, the organization and its members have raised considerable funding for various charities over the years.

**Our job is safety.**

**Thus, NOFF supports adding a commercial roofing license section to the existing Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) located within the Ohio Department of Commerce in the Division of Industrial Compliance and Labor.**

Commercial contractors being able to show proof of insurance, have work experience of three years to be grandfathered in, or to gain a new licensee- sit for an industry specific test would help provide a level of expertise to commercial roofing. The legislation can enhance safety and strengthen protections for fire fighters that have to enter compromised buildings.

The ability to have an efficient, time tested, check on commercial building structures makes sense and can protect lives. It can protect those inside the buildings and help our fire fighters also return to their families safely after their shift.

Thank you for those that supported the bill in committee last session and on the House floor. NOFF appreciates the consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sam Gmetro  
President, Northern Ohio Firefighters Association