



**State Representative Ron Ferguson**

*House Bill 129 Testimony  
House Commerce and Labor Committee  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally and members of the Commerce and Labor committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB129.

All consequences which result by adding any licensure which doesn't currently exist should always be taken in to equal consideration. Simply stated, "a license of any sort is essentially a government permission slip." This bill, if it were to become law, would place costs on the roofing industry which would ultimately be passed on to the consumer. So the questions we need to ask are,

1. "Should we increase the cost of commercial roofing?"
2. "Should we raise the barriers to entry on those who choose to work in this field?"
3. "Do any perceived benefits outweigh the real negatives of this legislation?"

Some arguments have been made for a necessity of safety, but it seems the people of Ohio have been safe without the existence of this license. One of the reasons is likely because no matter who installs a commercial roof; the roof must still pass inspection by a building inspector. This bill really boils down to unnecessary protectionism of an industry, and in Ohio, we should continue encouraging competition not price-increasing, anti-consumer licenses.