



## OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

June 11, 2024

Before the Ohio House Economic & Workforce Development Committee  
Proponent Testimony House Bill 476

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the Ohio House Economic & Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 476 my name is Tony Long, General Counsel and Director of Energy & Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

As you may know, for 131 years, the Ohio Chamber has served as the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. As part of our mission, we seek to make Ohio the best place in the country for businesses to operate and grow.

HB 476 is the next logical step after the passage of Senate Bill 249 in the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. SB 249 became effective on March 14, 2023. That bill allowed for the creation of a regulatory sandbox for novel financial products and services. Expansion of this program through HB 476 will allow businesses with novel products or services to apply for a waiver of regulations during a demonstration of the product or service. The application will describe the benefit to consumers, risks for consumers purchasing the offering, how consumers will be protected if the demonstration fails and how the demonstration will end.

A similar sandbox or test environment was enacted in Utah and has been used for title insurance, towing, legal products, and now healthcare products. The Utah offering will also allow AI companies to rollout and test new technologies. Interestingly, the Utah Office of Regulatory Relief also invites residents and businesses to make suggestions regarding laws and regulations that could be modified or eliminated to reduce the regulatory burden shouldered by Utah residents. Arizona has also expanded its regulatory sandbox from financial services to other consumer products.

As I testified back in 2021, this innovative legislation will create more dynamic testing, lower the cost to go to market and provide Ohioans with new and innovative products that been quality tested in a sandbox before hitting the market. In this age of new technologies and fast developing products this will give Ohio a competitive advantage while also providing regulators a chance to make sure the demonstrations provide benefits to consumers before being offered widely in the marketplace.

The Ohio Chamber supports HB 476 and thanks the sponsors, Representative Cutrona and Representative Hillyer for introducing this bill. The Ohio Chamber looks forward to working with this committee and the Ohio House to move HB 476 forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 476. I will now try to answer any questions you may have for me.