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Ways and Means

H.B. 435 – Sponsor Testimony

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and esteemed colleagues of the House Finance Committee – thank you for allowing Rep. Santucci and me to speak to HB 435 which would establish a Manufacturing Technologies Assistance Program (MTAP) here in Ohio.

I would like to take the opportunity to describe the MTAP program in a bit more detail.

Under the MTAP program, eligible manufacturers would apply to the Ohio Department of Development for funding of up to \$150,000. Applications would be divided into two profiles: companies with 50 or fewer fulltime employees and companies with 51-500 fulltime employees. Companies must be in good standing with all applicable state and local entities to receive funding consideration and would need to complete a technical assessment of the proposed project. Our legislation designates \$12,000,000 in initial funding for MTAP housed under the Ohio Department of Development.

This model has worked well in the neighboring states of Iowa and Indiana. Iowa recently dedicated another \$2 million to their Technology Investment Program using funding derived from the federal American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA).¹ Indiana's program, launched in 2020, has awarded at least \$22.8 million to support \$190.4 million in projects in 66 counties.²

To stymie the loss of population and jobs across our state, we absolutely need to attract outside companies to come and do business in Ohio. However, considering the competitive national landscape, and Ohio's long history and culture of successful manufacturing businesses, we have a great opportunity to create an environment to organically grow businesses that already call Ohio home.

I urge the committee's support for HB 435, and I look forward to addressing any questions you may have.

¹ <https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/2023-02-15/governor-reynolds-ieda-announce-2-million-manufacturing-40-funding>

² https://ohiochamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FINAL_Blueprint-for-Ohios-Economic-FutureV2.pdf, p. 57