

Thank you, Chairman Matthews, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and Committee Members, for allowing me the opportunity to testify on H.B. 388.

My name is Jay Shiets. I have been a Licensed Lead Abatement Contractor since 2002, a Licensed Lead Risk Assessor & Clearance Inspector since 2009, and an EPA Certified R.R.P Lead Safe Renovator since 2009. I am also licensed in the State of Ohio as an Asbestos Abatement Contractor, Asbestos Abatement Project Supervisor, and Asbestos Abatement Evaluation Specialist, as this extremely hazardous material can be encountered during Lead-Based Paint work activities.

As a Lead Abatement Contractor, EPA RRP Lead Safe Renovator, Lead Risk Assessor & Clearance Inspector, I have provided services and successfully completed multiple residential housing projects for Local, State, and Federally funded agencies, as well as multiple private home owners & General Contractors using private funds to address Lead Hazards in homes and to perform Lead Safe Renovations without creating new Lead Hazards. I have also completed multiple projects coordinated with The Ohio Department of Health, as well as Local & County Health Agencies, involving homes with children that have Elevated Lead Blood Levels, as well as cases of Lead Poisoning.

I have provided Lead-Based Paint Services in 56 of Ohio's 88 Counties.

Additionally, I am currently fulfilling a grant that was awarded to me by The Ohio Department of Development to provide services as a Lead Contractor Liaison for the Lead Safe Ohio Program. These services include recruitment & training of new EPA RRP Lead Safe Renovators, Lead Abatement Contractors & Workers, and Lead Risk Assessors & Clearance Inspectors in the areas of regulatory compliance, work methods, final cleaning methods, and all related activities to successfully complete Lead-Based Paint Projects, as well as working with Program Administrators to achieve success with Lead-Based Paint Projects.

I am here today as a proponent of H.B. 388. I believe it is important for contractors to be educated, trained, certified and supported on the risk that lead poses to families and how to appropriately address Lead when engaging in contracting work that will disturb Lead in a home.

Equally, I believe it is important to level the playing field between contractors that are following the law and protecting families with those who for whatever reason are not following the same rules.

By transferring the authority for RRP from the U.S. EPA to ODH I believe it will improve communication, education, access to resources, and training and guidance. ODH has a solid track record of working with workers and contractors to provide guidance. Based on my experience working with The Ohio Department of Health, there has always been a focus on educating contractors and that we are on the same team with the same goals. And for these reasons I support H.B. 388.

Again, thank you Chairman Matthews, Vice-Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and Committee Members. I would be happy to take any questions at this time.