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Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed improvements to Ohio's debarment statute as proposed in Senate Bill 133 (SB 133). SB 133 aims to enhance the efficacy of Ohio's existing debarment statute by expanding the categories for debarment and establishing mandatory (rather than a discretionary) debarment for certain offenses. As a former State Representative and now a private citizen, I remain deeply invested in the integrity and accountability of our state's governance, particularly with respect to the expenditure of state tax dollars. These amendments, while modest, nevertheless represent crucial steps toward upholding ethical standards and fostering public trust in our public institutions.

Debarment serves as a critical mechanism for safeguarding public resources, ensuring proper use of taxpayer funds, and ensuring that government contracts are awarded to ethical parties. By broadening the scope of offenses that warrant debarment, Ohio can better protect taxpayers' interests, maintain the highest standards of integrity in procurement processes, and deter potential wrongdoers. These changes will also provide clearer guidelines for identifying and penalizing misconduct. This bill also represents another needed step in a series of reforms to necessary to further punish and discourage corrupt activities related to state government.

Furthermore, the establishment of mandatory debarment in lieu of discretionary debarment for certain offenses is essential to demonstrate the state's unwavering commitment to accountability and transparency. By mandating debarment for egregious violations of public trust, such as bid rigging or bribery, Ohio can send a powerful message that neither unethical or illegal behavior will be tolerated, but will instead be met with consequences.

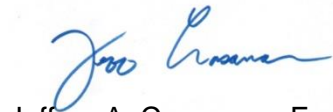
Strengthening Ohio's debarment statute is not only a matter of ethical governance but also a means of promoting fair competition and protecting the interests of law-abiding businesses. By deterring misconduct and ensuring that contracts are awarded based on merit and compliance

with regulations, these amendments will continue to encourage a level playing field for all state vendors.

I urge you to support SB 133 and for its swift passage. By enacting these reforms, the Ohio Senate will demonstrate its commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity and accountability in government operations, thereby serving the best interests of all Ohioans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing positive progress on this issue and stand ready to support your efforts to strengthen Ohio's governance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Crossman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent.

Jeffrey A. Crossman, Esq.