

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Larry Obhof
President, Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Larry Householder
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Obhof and Speaker Householder:

We are writing to respectfully request you remove a few provisions included in the proposed Operating Budget. Specifically, the language that reduced the business income deduction (BID) from \$250,000 to \$100,000 and the language that removes the 3% cap on pass-through income above the deduction. The fiscal impact of this budget change is a \$1 billion tax increase on pass-through entities in Ohio, most of which are small businesses.

We are concerned about the negative impact the reduction of the BID will have on our small businesses. We fear taking money out of businesses that they would otherwise use to buy equipment, expand operations, and/or increase wages will be detrimental to Ohio's overall economic growth.

The business income deduction was enacted to create tax parity between pass-through entities and general business C-Corps. Pass-through entities must pay both the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) and the Individual Income Tax, while C-Corps simply pay taxes on receipts under the CAT. The proposed change in the House-passed budget impacts the parity between Ohio businesses.

These substantial changes were done quickly and unexpectedly. The BID has been in place in its current form since 2015, therefore we believe that such significant changes warrant a more robust analysis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce
Central Ohio African-American Chamber of Commerce
Southwestern Auglaize Chamber of Commerce
Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati Regional Chamber of Commerce
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Darke County Chamber of Commerce
Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce
Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce

Galion-Crestline Chamber of Commerce
Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Chamber of Columbus
Hocking Hills Chamber of Commerce
Eastern Lake County Chamber of Commerce
Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce
Lima / Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Marion Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce
New Albany Chamber of Commerce
Noble County chamber of Commerce
Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce
Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development
The Chamber of Commerce of Sandusky County
The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Springfield
Trotwood Chamber of Commerce

CC: Members of the Ohio Senate, Members of the Ohio House of Representatives