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Ohio Chamber Submits Comments to the U.S. Department of the Treasury

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce this week provided comments to the U.S. Department of the Treasury on proposed rulemaking on the implementation of the beneficial ownership reporting requirements of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). The CTA is federal legislation passed in late 2020, intended to address the disclosure of corporate ownership and prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full comments submitted by the Ohio Chamber.

“While I support efforts to ensure national security and the free flow of trade, the proposed regulations are overly broad and will bury small businesses across Ohio under an avalanche of complex bureaucracy,” Ohio Chamber CEO Steve Stivers said. “Without refinement, this rule may cause more harm than good, because it creates a registry of small business owners and puts a target on their backs for regulatory enforcement.”

The Ohio Chamber is concerned the proposed rule is overly burdensome for small business owners and contains reporting requirements that do not align with the reality of business operations. The definition of “beneficial ownership” in the proposed regulation is too broad and would require more than 25 million small businesses in America to spend an estimated \$4 billion to comply with the proposed rule.

Furthermore, the way the rule currently reads, it is vague on the definition of “substantial control” and could require disclosure of people who don’t exercise control over a business. In

the comments, the Ohio Chamber asked the Treasury Department to limit which individuals are required to disclose information as a beneficial owner.

Also of concern are the cyber security risks created by the wide net cast by the Treasury Department's definition of "beneficial owner." The personal information required for disclosure may provide an easy target for cyber criminals.

As the state's leading business advocate and resource, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce aggressively champions free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. With members ranging from small businesses to international companies, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce represents Ohio's business voice.

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