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*COLUMBUS, OHIO – The below statement can be attributed to Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers following the Chamber’s Tuesday opponent testimony on House Bill 205.*

“The Ohio Chamber of Commerce continues to stand in opposition to House Bill 205. This legislation claims to boost worker safety on construction projects at Ohio’s refineries, but in reality, it is nothing more than a backdoor attempt at forced unionization.

Ohio already faces crippling workforce shortages, and HB 205 would exacerbate this issue by holding back extensively trained and qualified non-union employees from securing gainful employment at Ohio’s refineries.

Disruption of refinery operations by our own state government through quotas and burdensome compliance costs does nothing to improve worker safety; however, it will result in higher energy prices passed down to consumers. The bill would also establish a concerning precedent of government insertion into the hiring practices of private businesses.

Our state leaders should be providing Ohio citizens and business owners with relief, not more burdens, and HB 205 would only accomplish the latter.”

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