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Members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Virgil Strickler and I am the General Manager of the Ohio Expositions Commission.

The Commission's primary purpose is to maintain and manage state property reserved for the purpose of conducting at least one fair annually, and our mission is to professionally operate and maintain for public benefit a year-round, service-oriented event facility and produce the annual Ohio State Fair.

The Commission's vision is to be recognized as a unique, dynamic and profitable facility committed to creating a nationally recognized event venue and to produce a premier agricultural-based fair showcasing the best of Ohio with a world-class visitor experience.

The Commission is comprised of 14 members, (nine of whom are appointed by the Governor), plus five ex-officio members: the Agriculture and Natural Resources Chair of the Ohio Senate, the Agriculture and Rural Development Chair of the Ohio House of Representatives, the Director of the Development Services Agency, and Director of Agriculture and the Director of Natural Resources. The Commission meets 13 times annually.

The Commission operates the Ohio Expo Center, a year-round, multipurpose convention and meeting facility. The facility is host to five of Columbus' top 10 conventions and more than 200 other events each year. The Ohio State Fair, a 12-day event that attracts more than 900,000 visitors from across the country, is a showcase of Ohio, and features more than 14,000 youth participants from all of Ohio's 88 counties.

The events held on the Ohio Expo Center's property attract approximately 3.2 million visitors annually. The Expo Center creates a substantial economic impact on the City of Columbus, Franklin County and the state of Ohio, with a 2011 economic impact study estimating direct and indirect expenditures at more than \$478 million, as well as \$14 million in local, county and state tax revenues, 4,600 full and part-time jobs. This number is estimated to have increased significantly in the past 8 years as the number of events has continued to rise.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Ohio Expositions Commission.