



## State Representative Joe Miller

December 1, 2020

Director Matthew M. Damschroder  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services  
30 E. Broad St., 40th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Director Damschroder,

I am writing to you today to express my concern and disappointment in a matter brought to my attention by a constituent of the 56th House District.

In July, Ohio's Development Services Agency released \$20 million to set up Ohio PPE manufacturing as part of the Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program. The purpose of the grant was stated "to assist in retooling existing facilities through purchasing necessary equipment to manufacture critically needed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for use in Ohio or reshoring PPE production to Ohio." At least 15 companies awarded money in excess of \$7.5 million, started or expanded, manufacturing surgical masks in Ohio.

Also in July, Ohio's Department of Administrative Services released an invitation to bid for PPE to include over 32,000,000 surgical masks. The procurement specifically included bid preferences for domestic and Ohio preference. Despite these preferences, the winning responder, Liberty Paper, is a California-based company that is fulfilling the contract by importing masks from China.

I am in agreement with my constituent that the State of Ohio is being shortsighted and fiscally irresponsible by contracting our PPE needs from an out-of-state vendor. The millions of dollars already invested in PPE manufacturing in Ohio through the grant funding plus the return on payroll, taxes, and job creation should justify buying local. In addition, with PPE shortages becoming more dire than ever, Ohio has a direct interest in keeping Ohio PPE manufacturing running over the span of years.

Thank you for your consideration over this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Miller".

Representative Joe Miller

