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SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CLC

May 6, 2016
All Members of the Ohio House of Representatives
Via Electronic Transmission

Dear Ohio House of Representative Members:

On the behalf of the members of Service Employees International Union Local 1 in Northern Ohio, I am writing to offer my support for S.B. 315. S.B. 315 is a step in the right direction for transportation funding in the state, and will help to infuse necessary cash into transit agencies that is desperately needed.

However, we believe that S.B. 315 is only a first step in the right direction and funding needs to be greatly increased for urban transit agencies, but not, of course, at the expense of Ohio's many rural counties.

SEIU Local 1 is a proud founder, along with the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, of Clevelanders for Public Transit, and we believe that it is time for the structure of transit funding in our state to change. Cleveland's RTA system is relied upon by many as their sole form of transportation, including Local 1's underpaid members. As such, we know the importance of increasing funding to transit, and encourage the General Assembly to give renewed attention to the ODOT Statewide Transit Needs Study and its findings and recommendations for a substantial increase in state funding support for public transportation.

S.B. 315 provides a good first step with its one-time only infusion of funds, but it is only a first step. We urge you to vote yes on this legislation, but only after it is amended to increase the funding for transit agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yanela Sims", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Yanela Sims
Northern Ohio Coordinator

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