



Jim Hughes

State Representative, 24th House District

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on H.R. 236.

This resolution expresses support for Hyperloop development in our state. A Hyperloop is often referred to as a fifth method of transportation, a high-speed freight and passenger transport concept capable of conveying its contents at up to 700 miles per hour. Columbus is currently competing in the Hyperloop One Global Challenge, and was recently selected as one of ten finalists. The winners of the challenge will collaborate with the Hyperloop One development teams in exploring the creation of the world's first Hyperloop in their regions.

Columbus has partnered with Chicago and Pittsburgh to create the Midwest Connect Proposal, which would join Columbus, one of the fastest growing regions in the Midwest, with Chicago and Pittsburgh via a low-pressure tube powered by electric propulsion. If constructed, passengers would be able to travel via Hyperloop from Columbus to Chicago in approximately 24 minutes or to Pittsburgh in about 20 minutes. Local businesses would benefit from the ultra-fast freight connection between Columbus Rickenbacker Airport, the Port of Pittsburgh, and the Chicago Rail Hub. Proposal estimates expect the potential Hyperloop to support 1.9 million annual passenger trips and approximately \$3.8 billion in annual cargo demand by 2040.

Building on the selection of Columbus as the nation's first Smart City in June of 2016, the Hyperloop One Global Challenge represents an exceptional opportunity for Ohio to further its status as one of the world's leaders in advanced transportation technology. This resolution recognizes the Hyperloop One project's potential for stimulating significant economic growth in our state and serving as a next-generation technology that can be supported statewide through Ohio's automobile engineering and manufacturing businesses.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer questions from the committee.

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www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-8012
FAX: 614-719-0007
Email: Rep24@ohiohouse.gov

