



Sponsor Testimony: HB 376– Harry Meshel Memorial Highway

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan and Ranking Member Sheehy: thank you for providing me with the opportunity to deliver sponsor testimony on behalf of Rep. Boccieri and myself for HB 376, a bill to designate a portion of U.S. Route 422 which runs along the northeastern part of Youngstown State University as “Harry Meshel Memorial Highway.” The named portion of the road is near the late renowned public servant’s namesake hall on campus.

Harry Meshel’s legacy has been celebrated on both sides of the political aisle. He was as an intelligent, insightful, colorful visionary who was able to connect with everyday Ohioans at a deeper level. A World War II veteran, he truly believed in the future prospects of Youngstown and was committed to improving his communities. Harry Meshel was a dedicated public servant for over 22 years in the Ohio Senate, spending much of his tenure in leadership, and later served as a Youngstown State University trustee. As a community leader, he even helped small businesses get their feet off the ground—a number of Mahoning Valley industry leaders have testified that many of their entrepreneurial feats could not have been accomplished without Meshel’s mentorship. A tireless public servant, Harry Meshel created a legacy that speaks volumes, and his countless contributions to Northwest Ohio are still being recognized today.

In light of his incredible impact on our region and the state as a whole, we would like to honor Senator Meshel’s memory by dedicating the stretch of U.S. Route 422 in Youngstown between Fifth Avenue and U.S. Route 62 in his name, celebrating his legacy and ensuring it will live on.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this bill and I welcome any questions you may have.