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June 5, 2019

Representative Scott Wiggam
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Wiggam,

Our company, The Walsh Group, is providing this written testimonial in support of HB 218, which would provide the universities, schools, and local agencies of Ohio with the flexibility to consider public private partnerships (P3s) for the delivery of future infrastructure.

As background, The Walsh Group, Ltd is a fourth generation, family-owned construction services company. Our firm has worked on infrastructure projects big and small throughout Ohio and across the country. Walsh has worked in Ohio for 25+ years with projects ranging from water treatment facilities to bridges to corporate headquarters and military support buildings. Since 2007, Walsh has worked on \$1.5+ billion of Ohio-based projects, including work for ODOT, Wright Patterson AFB, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and numerous other public and private sector clients. Our firm is also a developer of public private partnerships (P3s) nationally, led by Walsh Investors (an affiliate of The Walsh Group). An example of this P3 experience includes development, construction, and maintenance for the Ohio River Bridge East End Crossing in Indiana.

HB 218 lays the foundation for upholding choice in delivering infrastructure across Ohio. Ohio continues to grow, through outstanding education, a competitive business environment, and a central location in the country. Infrastructure is a backbone to much of this economic prosperity, which is a competitive advantage and unique strength for Ohio. Allowing local schools and agencies to evaluate P3 as a “tool in the toolbox” for continued long-term delivery of infrastructure will allow Ohio to remain in this position of strength.

HB 218 provides the foundation for a successful P3 procurement — the authority for local agencies to enter into P3 agreements, a structured hand-back at the end of the P3 term, and prescriptive unsolicited bid requirements to ensure the private market delivers a competitive solution. This legislative foundation is important, as it allows the ultimate procurement decision to remain local — not preventing an authority from using P3 or forcing the use of P3 over another

delivery model. This choice is important because no two P3 projects are exactly alike —just as no two schools, roads, or universities are identical. P3 delivery enables the benefits of lifecycle cost certainty, increased likelihood of on-time delivery, and different financing terms, including an ability for the public sector client to make no payments until the project is substantially complete.

Our firm is supportive of passing HB218. We previously submitted a written letter of support for HB 668 when it was proposed in November 2018. Our support remains as this important piece of legislation is considered once again under the current 133rd meeting of the Ohio General Assembly. We would be happy to share our experience on P3 projects nation-wide for further explanation why P3 procurement remains a viable choice in delivering long-term infrastructure for Ohio taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration —

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Toppston', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aaron Toppston
Senior Development Manager, Walsh Investors