



MADISON TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

"A Dynamic Organization Devoted to Improvement and Excellence"

Matthew A. Byers
Chief of Police
(440) 428-2116

September 11, 2017

Honorable Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S High St #12
Columbus, Oh 43215

Members of the Transportation and Safety Committee:

My name is Matthew Byers and I am the Chief of Police at the Madison Township Police Department in Lake County. Madison Township has a population of over 18,000 residents and covers over 43 square miles. We are, geographically, one of the largest townships in the state of Ohio. Madison is located about 35 miles east of Cleveland and is bisected by Interstate 90.

For my 24 year career at the Madison Township Police Department we have been burdened with a lack of jurisdiction on Interstate 90. We have over 6 miles of Interstate 90 running through Madison Township that is not patrolled by a municipal police department or the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Post 28 of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, with their limited resources, must provide all police services for this section of Interstate 90. When the highway patrol needs assistance, they must call the Lake County Sheriff's Office. The Lake County Sheriff's Office then must respond to Madison, an area they do not patrol, to assist the highway patrol because we do not have jurisdiction on the interstate.

I believe this arrangement places an undue burden on the Lake County Sheriff's Office as well as the Ohio State Highway Patrol. I further believe it impedes the ability of the Madison Township Police Department to serve its community. It is my belief that the common sense changes brought by House Bill 255 would be a benefit to all involved.

If I can be of further assistance or provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Thank you for your attention in this very important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew A. Byers".

Matthew A. Byers
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