

# CLINTON COUNTY ENGINEER

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Clinton County Engineer, Jeffrey B. Linkous, P.E., P.S.,
Testimony – Sub. House Bill 26
Ohio Senate Finance Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
March 14, 2017

Chairman LaRose, Ranking Member Tavares, Vice Chairwoman Kunze and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on a provision in Sub. House Bill 26: Commercial Motor Vehicle Registration Pilot Program.

Sub. House Bill 26 establishes a Commercial Motor Vehicle Registration Pilot Program for Clinton, Lucas, Montgomery, and Stark counties under which the Registrar or a deputy registrar must reduce the Highway Safety Fee from \$30 to \$15 for the registration of a commercial truck.

In 2008, a large trucking company from Clinton County, moved its truck licensing registration to the State of Indiana. The result of this move was a loss of revenue up to \$3 million dollars. The trucking company indicated that the original reason for the switch was their ability to perform vehicle registrations online from their company terminal in Clinton County.

When the trucking company decided to register in Indiana, the effect on the State of Ohio was a loss of approximately \$200,000 but the loss to Clinton County, their townships and municipalities was close to \$2 million – and now it has grown to \$3 million. In an official statement from the trucking company to the State of Ohio, the primary decision to transfer vehicle registration out of Ohio to Indiana was that states ability to easily obtain registrations for their trucks through an online system at a cost savings for them.

In working with many trucking companies, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles has been able to transition to an online vehicle registration system with capabilities to refine their license registration for each truck to match the maximum load that it will carry, thereby reducing their registration fees. Yearly registration fees are based on maximum tonnage that a truck actually hauls; now they may be able to register an 80,000# truck at a reduced tonnage (i.e., 60,000#) and save \$200-300 a truck on registration fees.

It is our belief, coupling the new online vehicle registration program and reducing the \$30 Highway Safety Fee to \$15 for Clinton County, we will be able to bring back the trucking companies commercial vehicle registrations.

**Bottom Line:** The \$30 Highway Safety Fee is <u>not</u> apportioned (reduced based on mileage) for in-state carriers but <u>is apportioned</u> for out of state carriers (costs less).

Thank you for your time, I will be happy to answer any of your questions.