

Kevin Bacon

3rd Ohio Senate District

Committees:

Judiciary, Chair
Finance
Finance – Higher Ed Subcommittee
Energy and Natural Resources
Government Oversight and Reform
Insurance and Financial Institutions



Stephanie Kunze

16th Ohio Senate District

Committees:

Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, Vice Chair
Agriculture
Finance – Higher Ed Subcommittee
Health, Human Services and Medicaid
Insurance and Financial Institutions

Sponsor Testimony

Senate Resolution 175

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Senators Kevin Bacon and Stephanie Kunze

Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

Chairman LaRose, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Resolution 175.

This resolution supports the development of a fifth method of transportation, joining rail, ship, automobile, air, and what is known as a “Hyperloop” in the State of Ohio.

A Hyperloop is a low-pressure tube either built on columns or tunneled underground, capable of transporting passengers and cargo via pod at up to 700 miles per hour. Inside of the low-pressure tube is a pod that is propelled by an electric motor over a magnetized track. The low air pressure inside of the tube allows the pod to travel at very high speeds with minimal wind resistance, unlike a car or train which expends a significant amount of energy pushing air, especially at high speeds. The magnetic levitation system inside the Hyperloop enables the pod to travel with very minimal surface friction. By minimizing the effects of aerodynamic drag and surface

resistance, Hyperloops become extremely energy efficient when compared to more traditional transportation methods.

Columbus, in collaboration with Chicago and Pittsburgh, is currently competing with nine other regions in the United States and twenty-three regions worldwide in the Hyperloop One Global Challenge. The Columbus design, known as the Midwest Connect Proposal, would be capable of transporting passengers or freight 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. Supporters of the Midwest Connect Proposal estimate that the potential Hyperloop will transport 1.9 million passengers and approximately \$3.8 billion in cargo annually by 2040. The Midwest Connect Proposal is currently a semi-finalist in the competition. The winners of the challenge will collaborate with the Hyperloop One development teams in exploring the creation of the world's first Hyperloops in their regions.

As you may remember, the Ohio General Assembly passed a resolution in the previous General Assembly supporting the selection of Columbus as the nation's first "Smart City." As the eventual winner of that competition, Columbus is now witnessing a boom in local investment in transportation technology, garnering about \$367 million in local matching investment in addition to \$40 million in federal funding. We encourage the committee to support this resolution, as it represents an exceptional

opportunity for Ohio to bolster its status as one of the world's leaders in advanced transportation technology. This resolution will encourage Hyperloop development in Ohio as an outstanding chance to advance Ohio's reputation as an epicenter for economic growth in the Midwest. Hyperloops have the potential to radically transform transportation systems in this century. We believe Ohio should be at the forefront of this technology. Thank you for your consideration. We would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.