**Senate Bill 114 - Sponsor Testimony**

**Wednesday May 3rd, 2017**

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Williams, and distinguished members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 114 which will credit a new business tax credit to cover some of the costs for training new truck drivers in our state.

Ohio has an estimated seven to eight thousand jobs currently available in the high paying field of transportation. Unfortunately, there are jobs going unfilled because of the lack of experienced drivers. Once a driver takes the commercial driver license (CDL) training course and obtains their license, there is still a great deal of training and practice needed to competently operate an eighteen-wheeler on Ohio’s roadways.

In order to encourage companies to hire these new drivers, I am developing new legislation to create a new business tax credit to cover half the cost of the extra training. The employer would be responsible for half of the training costs and the tax credit would be used to cover the other half.

Ohio has trucking companies in every Senate district that could use this tax credit to employ more young drivers. Since more employment and better trained drivers will benefit the while state, I hope you will support this legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the committee. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.