



WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ
MAYOR

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To the members of the Ohio House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the City of Toledo, please accept this letter of support for the provisions of House Bill 62 that would increase Ohio's gas tax by \$0.18 per gallon. As the Mayor of Toledo, like all Mayors across the state, I face financial challenges in keeping our roads maintained, and I view an increase in the gas tax as an important step in building and maintaining roads across the state as well as in the City of Toledo.

Just as the new ODOT director pointed out in his testimony, an increase is necessary because many vehicles are more fuel efficient, and the introduction of more electric vehicles causes the roads to be used more while tax receipts continue to decline. The increase would allow Toledo to continue to make important road improvements for an increasing number of miles driven. According to the numbers provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation's division of Finance, the additional tax would total \$5.9 million dollars in increased revenue for Toledo. The additional funding is desperately needed as we maintain over 1224 linear miles of roads in our city.

Another issue that we are interested in addressing for Toledo is public transportation. As the Legislature continues to hear the transportation budget bill, I urge consideration for increased funding with regard to public transit. In Toledo, our public transportation serves as a lifeline to individuals as they travel to work and shop for food. Public transportation is necessary for our aging population and our disabled population to continue to live independently. Additional consideration for public transportation that would allow Toledo to continue to serve its most vulnerable populations would serve a great public need.

Thank you for taking the time to work through these important issues on behalf of the people of Toledo and Ohio.

Sincerely,


Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor