June 05, 2019

Via E-Mail Attachment

Representative Scott Wiggam
Chairman, State and Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th floor
Columbus, OH 43215
District 1@ohiohouse.gov

Dear, Chairman Wiggam,

As a citizen of Ohio, former employee of the Ohio Department of Transportation, and national advisor in the infrastructure industry, I am writing to express my support for HB 218 that would provide an additional tool for delivery of public works in the State.

Public-private-partnerships have been successfully used to deliver needed infrastructure throughout the U.S. More than 32 states have authorized public-private-partnerships for delivery of many types of infrastructure projects. In Ohio, this project delivery tool is currently authorized for use by the Ohio Department of Transportation. In 2015, The Department successfully utilized a public-private-partnership to begin delivery the Southern Ohio Veterans Memorial Highway.

Without the ability to use a public-private-partnership, this last section of the Appalachian Development Highway System would have been constructed at least eight years later and may not have been constructed at all, leaving approximately $100M in earmarked Appalachian Regional Commission funding un-spent. Construction on this project was completed in December of 2018.

Public-private-partnerships are not appropriate for all projects, but when used appropriately, they can reduce project costs, improve the effectiveness of contract administration, more appropriately manage the project over its full lifecycle, and provide local entities with access to additional capital sources.

HB 218 is the type of good government that should be advanced. It is permissive in nature and does not require the use of public-private-partnerships. It does, however, allow this project delivery method to be used more broadly throughout Ohio, so that public entities can, when appropriate, achieve the benefits that public-private-partnerships provide.

Sincerely,

Adam Sheets