



Representative Don Manning
59th Ohio House District

HB 353 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity provide Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 353, which would designate a portion of State Route 7 in Mahoning County as the "Clarence "Sonny" Smith, Jr. Highway."

Over the years, Sonny has used his standing in the community as a force for good. The owner of Diamond Steel, Compco Industries, and Adamas Jewelry, he has devoted much of his time to the Mahoning County Republican Party, where he served as chair, and the Youngstown State University, where he donated a sizeable gem collection, is a former Penguin of the Year, and inductee into the Athletics Hall of Fame.

Sonny touched many through his time in the Mahoning Valley Council of Churches and Organization of Protestant Men, the Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries, Boy Scouts of America, the Mahoning Valley Council of Trustees, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Stambaugh, the Youngstown P.I.C, the Mahoning County Library Board, the Advisory Committee of Sister Jerome's Mission, and the Western Reserve Port Authority which all, at one point, benefitted from his presence on their Board of Directors or as a member.

The portion of State Route 7 in question, from Western Reserve Road north to Washingtonville Road, is the perfect spot for such a designation as it runs past the location of what was Sonny's childhood home. In fact, that area is part of a parcel he donated to Boardman Township some years ago that now houses the Boardman Police and Fire Stations.

As has been evidenced, Smith's list of accomplishments is as numerous as the ways he has given back to the community. A lasting honor of this kind is a fitting bookend to a life well spent. I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 353 and welcome any questions you may have.

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