HB 392: Designating Lester and Mary Oeder Memorial Highway

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehan, and the members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 392.

I am Brent Centers, the Township Administrator of Hamilton Township, Warren County. I work in the District of Representative Scott Lipps. Representative Lipps has graciously helped us through this process since the conception of this idea in August 2018.

This idea was prompted when Mr. Richard Oeder reached out to me with a request to honor his mother and father for their long-tenured service to Hamilton Township in Warren County, Ohio. As Mr. Richard Oeder currently owns and operates Oeder’s Lake on State Route 22/3, we found it appropriate to request the frontage of that property for this proposed memorial highway.

Richard Oeder’s father, Lester Oeder was raised on the Mounts Park property which is now a very prominent park in Hamilton Township. There, he and his wife, Mary Oeder operated their excavating business along with a concrete block plant on US Highway 22/3 for over 65 years. Their first home was constructed 1933 in this same area of now State Route 22/3 where they built a lake on the frontage of their home property.
This lakefront property still stands in the stretch of State Route 22/3 and is not only home to Richard and Kathy Oeder but also home to some of the largest events in Hamilton Township.

These events include the Cardboard Boat Regatta which draws thousands of attendees to support the Little Miami Area Chamber of Commerce, the Miles Greenwood Historic Fire Apparatus Society’s annual muster honoring Miles Greenwood who developed the first practical steam powered fire engine in the history of the United States in the early 1850's, the Farm Club Show, and for the first time ever in our community, they hosted the Hamilton Township National Night Out honoring and showcasing our first responders and reminding our youth to run to our police Officers and not away from them. Oeder’s Lake is also open to public fishing, picnics, and general leisure at all time.

The Oeder family has been a major part of our history in Hamilton Township and to pay homage to their family name, naming the section of State Route 22/3 between Stubbs Mill Rd. and Zoar Rd. in their memory is the least we can do for all that they have done and continue to do for our residents of Hamilton Township, Warren County.

I humbly and sincerely thank the Committee for your time during this testimony in support of this House Bill 392. Thank you.