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**Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE)
House Bill 62 – Interested Party Testimony
Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee
March 19, 2019**

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, first and foremost I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 62, the biennial transportation budget. My name is Larry Rodriguez, I am a member of NOBLE, and I represent people with disabilities statewide.

I have been a public transit rider for 30 years and in all of those 30 years I have also been disabled. My first experience with public transit was at the tender age of 14. It was then that I learned to travel independently as a person with disabilities, I took public transit everywhere and still do to this day.

I would like to continue utilizing public transportation, it is vital for myself and others with disabilities. The state has continuously underfunded public transportation. By not properly funding public transportation it becomes a hindrance to me getting to various trainings, advocacy opportunities, educational seminars, doctors' appointments, etc., things that are necessary to me. Members of this committee I ask that you consider adequately funding public transportation!

I do not know where I would be without public transportation. I believe that many with disabilities can relate to the things that I have mentioned. It is important to remember that Ohio is stronger when transportation is affordable and accessible. Thank you for your time and consideration.