



Working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities.

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Scott Oelslager, Chair
House Finance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Oelslager,

Ohio Farm Bureau's mission is to work together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities. Making Ohio's roads safer is very much in line with that motto as our members rely heavily on road and bridge infrastructure to access their fields. Many farmers are concerned about their safety when driving equipment on public roads because of the number of accidents they have encountered from motorists who are impatient, unaware of traffic laws, or distracted. We have had multiple fatalities in Ohio's agriculture community this year due to distracted drivers colliding with farm equipment.

Farm Bureau policy supports Ohio becoming a "Hands-Free" state. The data show how the number of distracted driving accidents is skyrocketing in recent years, especially in the last year due to greater dependency on phones during the pandemic. Hands-free laws are proven to be effective in reducing accidents caused by distracted drivers; therefore, Farm Bureau supports the Hands-Free provisions in HB 74, and we appreciate this committee's thoughtful consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenna J. Beadle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jenna Beadle
Director of State Policy
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Cc: House Finance Committee