



Representative Al Cutrona
59th Ohio House District

Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 384. It would designate a portion of State Route 7, commonly known as Market Street, in Mahoning County as the "Clarence 'Sonny' Smith, Jr. Highway."

Over the years, Sonny used his standing in the community as a force for good. He was the owner of three very successful companies: Diamond Steel, Compco Industries, and Adamas Jewelry. He devoted much of his time to the Mahoning County Republican Party, where he served as chair. He was also a generous philanthropist and active community member for Youngstown State University, where he donated a sizeable gem collection, was a Penguin of the Year, and was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame.

Sonny was heavily involved in many of our community organizations, including 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.

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.

Sonny passed away on April 13th this year, and I believe this road designation is a great opportunity to honor his memory and all that he did for the Mahoning Valley. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I welcome any questions you may have at this time.