



**Ohio Senate**  
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**Committees:**  
Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee  
(Chairman)  
Primary & Secondary Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Workforce & Higher Education Committee

**Michael A. Rulli**  
State Senator  
33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 65**  
**Senator Michael A. Rulli**  
**3/2/21**

Chairman Kunze and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 65. Senate Bill 65 is a reintroduction of House Bill 353 from the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, which was sponsored by the late Rep. Don Manning. This 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of this bill, I would be glad to answer any questions from the committee.