



Henry County Engineer

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TO: Chairman Kunze, VC Reineke, Ranking Minority Member Antonio
Transportation Committee Members

FROM: Timothy J Schumm, PE, PS, Henry County Engineer

DATE: March 19, 2021

RE: **Sub HB 74, Transportation Budget**
FORCE ACCOUNT limits increase - SUPPORT

County: Henry
Budget: \$6,000,000

I am writing to express my support for Sub. House Bill 74, the Transportation Budget, particularly the addition of the language increasing county and other local government force account limits.

As County Engineer, I am tasked with maintaining 295 bridges and 406 miles of roadway. To keep them in good condition, 4-5 bridges are replaced every year and over 40 miles of roads are paved or chip sealed. Many of these structures are smaller projects and best suited for force account. By replacing many of these structures through force account, the County is not only able to do them efficiently but also cost effectively. Since the force account limits have not been increased since 2003, the amount of work the County crews can do decrease a little every year due to increase in costs. By increasing the force account limits, our crews will be able to continue to replace these structures.

Our crews take pride in their work. Since all of our employees are local, they can see the fruits of their labor and can show their families the work they do. They are also held accountable for their work. Being in a small rural community, the structures they replace are seen by friends and family, so quality work is a must. This type of pride and accountability may not be felt by an outside contractor working on a small project.

I encourage you to increase the force account limits so that county highway crews can continue the excellent work they do for their county.

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