

March 23, 2021

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

FROM: Edward J. Meixner, Ashland County Engineer

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

Your Honorable Committee:

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.

I believe that it is important for an elected official to be able to have the freedom to determine what is in the best interests of the general public. With regards to force account limits that freedom is diminished and prevents me from doing what may be in the best interest of Ashland County. In my twenty years of experience as Ashland County Engineer I have had situations where I have given work to contractors where the estimate for that work was under the force account limits because I knew it was more efficient to allow a contractor to complete the work. It works the other way as well, sometimes we are forced to give work to contractors where it would be more efficient if the work was completed by county employees.

It has been many years since these limits were addressed. Please consider our position to increase these limits to a reasonable amount.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Meixner, PE, PS  
Ashland County Engineer