



Senate Bill 162 Proponent Testimony June 16, 2021

Chairwoman Kunze, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Tom Balzer and I am President & CEO of the Ohio Trucking Association (OTA). I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 162, which would modernize the ability of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission to implement electronic tolling and toll evasion procedures.

The Commission's current tolling collection system is approaching the end of its useful life and is in need of an upgrade. In a survey of 14,000 customers conducted by the Commission, 89% supported the removal of toll gates in favor of electronic tolling. As you can understand trucking is the largest segment of the customer base of the Ohio Turnpike and as such large voice in the survey conducted by the Commission.

Time is money in our business, we often say if the wheels aren't turning you aren't making money. Any delays or slowdowns in traffic flows impact our business negatively. For many drivers having to slow down for a tolling booth is an inconvenience, for us it has an economic impact. We as an industry support open road tolling as an effective means of toll collection and therefore support Senate Bill 162.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Balzer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE
President & CEO