



Ohio House of Representatives
Attn: Civil Justice Committee
77 South High Street, Suite #12
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Civil Justice Committee,

Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 64. My name is Herb Koehler and I serve as the Village Manager in Granville. I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 64, as it would significantly impede our communities from conducting public infrastructure improvements. As these needs continually change, our duly elected local government officials must have the flexibility and authority to meet the demands of our residents.

While the Village of Granville rarely has a need for exercising eminent domain, the notion of a municipality having to prove the necessity of public projects with clear and convincing evidence and overcome additional hurdles beyond current law will have significant negative effects. Once routine capital projects could become protracted and costly affairs, impacting our ability to meet the needs of the community writ large.

Additionally, the Granville community prides itself on our recreational trail network. As our community grows over the next 5-10 years, we hope to expand it to meet the active transportation needs of our residents. We are deeply concerned about language in House Bill 64 that would remove recreational trails from the definition of "public use" in Ohio's eminent domain law. Trails are a critical asset to Central Ohio, both for recreational purposes and commuting, and are widely used across the region.

Chair Hillyer and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on House Bill 64. We strongly urge you to reject these measures and protect our ability to meet constituent needs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 740-587-0700 or hkoehler@granville.oh.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Herb Koehler'.

Herb Koehler
Village Manager