

Chairman Swearigen
Vice Chair Santucci
Ranking Member Upchurch
Members of the House Economic and Workforce Committee

My name is Edward Radzysinski and along with my wife Patti reside at 19 N. Carpenter Rd. in Brunswick Ohio. We have happily lived there since November of 1999. I am here today to strongly voice my support of HB 276 which repeals ORC 5501.60 pertaining to an interchange highway exit ramp on Boston Rd. in Medina County.

I do not wish to be redundant as you have heard many passionate presentations on this topic. I am compelled to bring to the forefront many of the concerns the communities of both Brunswick and Strongsville have over this forced legislation surrounding this proposed interchange and how it all came to pass. In the Governor's own words this legislation circumvented the normal process and was slipped into legislation bypassing the established process and protocol. It was bad legislation to start with and it will now take good legislation to reverse it. I stand before you with the belief that our government corrects wrongs served on it's people by others having nefarious motives for their own best interest and gain. That belief is supported by virtue of this committee's invitation to testify in support of HB 276.

I trust in your ability to absorb all the information put before you. At the end of the day I believe you will clearly see the need for the passage of HB 276 and will support this legislation put forth by both Rep. Miller and Rep. Ray.

In a few short weeks I will turn 70 years old. My best years are behind me. Rebuilding is not an option. I currently have a mortgage rate of 2.75% and today's current mortgage rates are nearly 7.5%. As reported recently by ABC, NBC and CBS this is the highest rate in 23 years. Since the beginning of 2023 with the conversation of this interchange my home value has plummeted from what my homeowners policy says my value is \$380,000 and as of last week ,per Zillow, my value has now dropped to \$223,000 which is a massive drop of \$157,000. Just the mere mention of this interchange has destroyed my value and hard work. How do I recover that?

Over the past 20 years many attempts have been made by Strongsville to construct an interchange at this location and at every attempt it has been thwarted by residents, public opinion and other government entities. It has been deemed as not viable, costly and ultimately non performing to the end goals stated. Today is no different. Public and community voice is still in opposition. The costs have skyrocketed and by virtue of a current study funded by Strongsville a interchange will only improve the traffic flow issue created by Strongsville in Strongsville at best by 8%. This is hardly evidence for such a massive, invasive and mega major project.

Strongsville has also presented this project as a safety issue. This is a falsehood. An additional ramp that straddles their border would require additional safety forces and first responders to cover traffic incidents which then splinters their abilities to adequately handle the inevitable incidents. In addition and possibly an even graver danger would be the severely increased potential for Human Trafficking. Ohio is currently a leader in Human Trafficking... It is well documented that the I-71 corridor presents itself as a route used frequently for this purpose. As you are well aware a person participating in trafficking desires a "grab and go" situation so that before it can even be recognized the perpetrator is long gone and the ability to recover the stolen child is immensely reduced. This is the saddest of situations and should hold more value than any traffic issue. Please let this rest on your hearts. Think about your children and grandchildren.

Permit me to circle back for a moment and address the issue of personal impact. As I mentioned I have been in residence since 1999. In fact I moved from Drake Rd. in Strongsville to escape the over building of Strongsville. Brunswick provided me that opportunity.

Over these past 20 plus years we have done everything in our power to execute a plan that would allow us a relaxed and carefree retirement. We have fully invested our savings, dreams and energies into our home. We have celebrated life here including births and deaths, holidays and so many of life's memories. We were raised with the belief and admonition that if in life you work hard and play by the rules you can have the American Dream... a home... a piece of the American Pie.

We did believe this. We played by the rules and until now thought we secured our part of that dream. Then along comes a bully (Strongsville) with the help of arm twisting and in the form of unprecedented legislation to rob us of our hard work and dreams. We do not have the financial ability to rebuild what we have invested in our home over the past 20 years. We are seniors living on a fixed income. Our home has been updated to allow us to spend our final years there.

Eminent Domain works off of "fair market value" not replacement value. Who pays that difference. This interchange has destroyed my market value! There are other issues such as who will pack my things. Remember I am 70. Who will move me and pay for it? My current house is already fixed up and modernized for senior living. Who will pay for a new residence to be ADA compliant. The list of questions for which no person has been able to give me answers for is exhausting.

I want to again thank this committee for providing me this platform. I urge this committee to recommend passage of HB 276 saving myself and my community from unwanted and unwarranted overreach.

I invite each and every member of this committee to come to my home, sit with my wife and I and view this situation first hand. Experience more than written words on a sheet of paper before you and step into our shoes. Be fully informed and aware. I ask that you take my testimony into consideration and support HB 276. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Edward & Patricia Radzymiński
19 N. Carpenter Rd.
Brunswick, Ohio 44212