

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the consideration of my written testimony. My name is Melissa Augustine, and I am a Hinckley Township Trustee in Medina County, which is adjacent to Brunswick City. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 276, as introduced by Representative Ray and Representative Miller.

Hinckley Township unanimously supported a Resolution in opposition of the proposed interchange on Interstate I-71 at Boston Road on October 18, 2022, and a Resolution in support of the proposed repealment of Ohio Revised Code Section 5501.60 as contemplated by S.B. No. 155 AND H.B. No. 276 on October 3, 2023.

The Hinckley Township Board of Trustees is charged with protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents. Hinckley will experience increased vehicular and large industrial traffic on West 130th Street, Boston Road and other roadways in the Township should an Interchange at I-71 and Boston Road exist. Industrial traffic will have a tumultuous impact on a community that prides itself on its rural character. It is a priority for us to plan, manage and allocate the budget appropriately for our citizens, safety forces and infrastructure. The proposed Interchange will increase roadway maintenance, repair, and replacement costs as well as costs associated with increase call volume of Township police and fire departments. Lastly, the proposed interchange will negatively impact Hinckley Township residents, including those residents in the vicinity of the proposed Interchange, and is a threat to the safety of residents and businesses in Hinckley Township.

It is my humble opinion that Hinckley Township should not have to adapt their community, resources, budget, and more importantly, citizen safety, secondary to the proposed Interchange.

We applaud Representative Sharon Ray and Representative Melanie Miller for their leadership and advocacy. Hinckley Township stands behind their efforts.

On behalf of Hinckley Township, I request that you support HB 276. Thank you.