

Good afternoon Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and the members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee

My name is Shrea Kellums and I have lived on Boston Road in Brunswick for 30 + years. During this time, I have witnessed the continuing construction and development of homes and neighborhoods, thus the area has become heavily residential. Boston Road is a two-lane county road with many hills, forested areas, family homes, and lots of wildlife. I along with many other residents have worked hard to prevent the interchange from happening, and I was completely devastated when a measure to the state's transportation budget was implemented that would jeopardize our hard work. I truly thought that it would be vetoed and was left completely shocked when it was passed. This is wrong in so many ways, the government should not have the final say in whether a widely opposed interchange should be built at the expense of the residents who will be directly affected. This measure must be removed from law and should be left for the local officials and NOACA to make the final decisions. Furthermore, it is not appropriate and extremely unfair for one city (Strongsville) to force another city (Brunswick) to make such huge changes to their infrastructure without having any say in the matter. Not to mention the high pressure Jetfuel Pipeline, which is located on many of the resident's land that will be affected by the interchange. If the interchange were to be constructed not only would homes be lost but also the road would need to be widened. As a result, the pipeline would have to be moved and relocated closer to residents' homes, a huge undertaking and potential for numerous safety hazards. The expense, safety, and concerns would fall onto Brunswick, a huge financial burden. What also should be considered is what this will do to home values in the area, and the potential for further industrial development, for which both would be devastating for residents.

My husband and I have brought up our family in our home, we have made lifelong friends in our neighborhood, and love our beautiful city. It is not safe nor economically viable to put an interchange in a heavily residential area and that is why it is so important to remove this measure so this cannot happen to any other cities in Ohio. I am asking you to please consider supporting Representative Miller and Representative Ray's bill, House Bill 276, and repealing section 5501.60.