



Representative Dave Dobos

10th House District

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for allowing my joint sponsor, Representative Peterson, and me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 340.

As Representative Peterson discussed, this bill will provide grants to employers who provide charter commuter vehicles for their employees. The encouragement of employer-provided commuter vehicles will result in easier commutes for many employees, allowing them to spend less time and energy on getting to and from work, and more on the job itself and their home lives. It also will be especially beneficial for workers who need access to such transportation, opening opportunities for folks who otherwise might have to exclude themselves, thus increasing the available pool of quality labor.

To receive one of these grants, the employer must apply to the Department of Development, and meet a few specific qualifications to be eligible. First, the employer must agree to pay at least 50% of employees' eligible transportation expenses itself. They also must require their employees to complete quarterly surveys regarding the grant-funded transportation and agree to file quarterly reports that include (but are not limited to): the total mileage paid to the commuter service, the number of employees that used the provided commuter service, and the number of miles by which the grant-funded transportation reduced employee travel.

These quarterly surveys and reports will ensure the adequacy of the commuter vehicle service from the perspectives of both the employer and the employee and allow the

Department of Development to confirm that the grant money is being provided to businesses that need it the most.

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, I humbly ask for your support of this legislation, which will provide much needed support to working class Ohioans. Thank you again for your time.