



Representative Al Cutrona
58th Ohio House District

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chairman LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on substitute House Bill 2. This legislation is a nearly \$2 billion investment in economic, educational, and infrastructure projects across Ohio. This includes the one-time Strategic Investment Fund, which was created in the operating budget due to prior solid fiscal stewardship.

Included in this legislation are funds that can be used immediately to improve and expand infrastructure around the state. House Bill 2 has \$600 million for the School Building Program Assistance Fund, \$400 million for the Public Works Commission Local Public Infrastructure and State Capital Improvement Program, \$397.6 million for numerous higher education projects around the state, and \$250 million for local jail construction across Ohio.

The remaining \$350 million covers 318 uniquely transformational projects from the Strategic Investment Fund. This one-time fund is a direct result of Ohio's conservative fiscal stewardship and a strong economy. This fund not only speaks to our fiscal health, but it is a once in a generation opportunity for our state's future prosperity.

This Fund embodies our commitment to identifying and investing in projects that may not have been eligible for traditional funding within the capital budget, but have the potential for shaping Ohio's future for years to come. These projects, outlined in the bill, span across numerous communities, touching every corner of our state.

From bolstering public safety measures to fostering workforce development, from enhancing tourism and entertainment infrastructure to promoting health and wellness initiatives, from nurturing hometown pride to driving economic growth, the projects outlined in Sub. HB 2 are strategically aligned with our state's priorities. Through targeted investment in these areas, we aim to maximize the impact of these funds, ensuring tangible benefits for all Ohioans.

By making these investments now, the sooner we can start seeing the results.

Ohio finds itself in a unique position, presented with an unprecedented opportunity to shape its future for generations to come. By investing in these projects, we have the chance to fundamentally transform our state's landscape. Today, we are building our home for a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you again to Chair Edwards and the rest of the members of the Finance Committee for hearing Sub. HB 2. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.