

Committees:

Ways and Means (Ranking Member)

Finance and Appropriations

**Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Development, and Natural Resources
(Ranking Member)**

State and Local Government

Public Utilities

Armed Services



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H.J.R. 8 Sponsor Testimony: House Finance Committee

Chair Edwards, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on House Joint Resolution 8, which would ask the voters to renew the constitutional authorization necessary to continue this program for another 10 years.

The State Capital Improvement Program under the Ohio Public Works Commission is currently scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2025, exhausting the existing constitutional authorization contained in Article VIII Section 2s of the Ohio Constitution.

The Public Works Commission administers the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP). SCIP is a grant/loan program for roads, bridges, water supply, waste water treatment, storm water collection, and solid waste disposal. LTIP's grants and loans only covers roads and bridges. These programs run concurrently and are solicited, scored, and selected by each of the 19 Local District Integrating Committees. Many of us that have previously served in local government are familiar with or have participated as members of those district committees.

As we are all aware, labor and material costs have increased, so the \$200 million a year for 10 Years, \$2 billion total, provided in the existing program doesn't cover as much as it previously did. Therefore, and as a result of consultation and agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission, this proposed resolution will ask for \$250 million per year, and the total amount of the 10-year period is \$2.5 billion. In terms of contributing to a healthier Ohio economy, renewal of this program will result in thousands of good paying jobs to do the construction work on the projects that this program will finance.

Mr. Chairman, and Committee members, I will now defer to my joint sponsor Speaker Pro Tempore Oelslager to provide his testimony on this bill. As original co-sponsors of the legislation that created this very popular program, often referred to as the Issue 2 Public Works Program, we urge you to quickly pass this out of committee. Thank you for your attention and consideration.