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Vice President, Legislative & Government Affairs
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**House Joint Resolution 8 – Proponent Testimony
November 20, 2024**

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of House Joint Resolution 8.

My name is Travis Rhoades, and I am a registered professional engineer and currently serve as the vice president of legislative and government affairs for the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, or NSPE-Ohio.

NSPE-Ohio is the single, most powerful voice representing Ohio's professional engineers. On behalf of our leaders' professional opinions – which reflect engineering principles, a working knowledge of Ohio's engineering laws and rules, and a desire to protect and improve our state – we would like to offer our comments in support of HJR 8.

As you know, this critical resolution would renew and expand Ohio's highly successful State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. The expansion of this program through HJR 8 would allow for the issuance of an additional \$2.5 billion of general obligation bonds to fund local infrastructure capital improvements over 10 years. The SCIP has enabled the completion of essential projects for water, sewer, road, and bridge improvements, which would have been unfeasible without this funding.

Additionally, this program has historically generated jobs and strengthened public safety across all 88 counties by providing much-needed funds to local governments through a competitive selection process. The SCIP has effectively leveraged additional investments from other sources, maximizing the impact of state funds. By raising \$2.5 billion in bonds, SCIP will allow local governments to manage the costs of high-priority projects, and safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public; which is the number one priority of all professional engineers.

On behalf of NSPE-Ohio members, we thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue. We would like to reiterate that our comments are made with the full support of the NSPE-Ohio Executive Committee. We would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have throughout this process. Please feel free to contact our office at (614) 223-1144 or by email at ospe@ohioengineer.com.

Sincerely,



Travis L. Rhoades, PE
Vice President, Legislative & Government Affairs