

### **11.20.24 Rep. Oelslager Sponsor Testimony**

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Joint Resolution 8.

This resolution, if approved, will provide funding for the continuation of the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program, which provides funding for funding for local, critical infrastructure projects throughout Ohio and is set to sunset on July 1, 2026.

The State Capital Improvement Program has been a passion project of mine for quite some time. I had the honor of sponsoring the original legislation that created this program alongside Representative Troy back in 1987. Since then, this will be the 5<sup>th</sup> time this program has been before the Ohio voters after being originally approved in 1987 and renewed in 1995, 2005 and 2014.

This resolution will increase the annual amount for the program from \$200 million to \$250 million per year. The total amount over the 10-year period will \$2.5 billion, which will be paid for through state general obligation debt. Other than the dollar amount and the election date, the resolution is unchanged from the one that put the language on the ballot in 2014.

It has been an honor to watch the State Capital Improvement Program grow, flourish, and positively impact all four corners of our great state over the past 37 years. To invest in critical infrastructure is to invest in economic development and the future of our state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HJR 8. We're happy to answer any questions at this time.