

Madam Chair John, Vice Chairman Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and esteemed members of the State & Local Government Committee - good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to offer support testimony on HB 342.

Though I wasn't present for the initial introduction of this bill, I stand before you today deeply honored to lend my support. This legislation seeks to bestow a well-deserved honor upon an extraordinary band hailing from the city of my birth and current residence - Akron, Ohio.

I am firmly convinced that by deliberately celebrating the good, we cultivate an environment ripe for even greater positivity and inspiration. It is with this conviction that I urge your consideration in commemorating the remarkable legacy of DEVO, a band that not only entertained but also propelled listeners to action with anthems like "Whip It".

While the phrase "Whip It" is associated with affirmations such as "go forward, move ahead" - these lyrics have continued to inspire people even today. Though some may dismiss it as cheesy by today's standards, DEVO pioneered the integration of music and video, ushering in a new age of music production for all to enjoy.

Music possesses an unparalleled ability to uplift, unite, and impart truth. With this in mind, I wholeheartedly endorse the recognition of DEVO as an exemplary force in 80's Rock n Roll, and I implore this esteemed committee to lend their support to this cause. I take immense pride in knowing that this exceptional group emerged from my home city- Akron, Ohio.

Together, let us continue to "whip it" and honor DEVO's enduring impact by officially designating a day in their name. In doing so, we not only celebrate their musical achievements but also pay tribute to the enduring power of music to create connections and inspire action.